

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Avant gardening
What's in and out for summer in the garden
Each-way bet
Woodrow Wyatt advocates
Sunday racing
Whodunnit?
Your chance to win a
Murder Weekend
Le tennis
Rex Bellamy reports on the French tennis championships

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr Allen Cope, of Cobham, Surrey. Today's Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, back page information service.

Concession on jobless earnings

The Government intends to abolish the earnings limit for pensioners and allow the long-term jobless to earn up to £15 a week without losing benefit, leaked details suggest. The concessions are seen as "sweeteners" in the forthcoming reviews of social security. **Page 2**

Girl killed

Helen Aider, aged 12, of Washington Tyne and Wear, fell to her death when a safety barrier failed on a fairground ride in Whitley Bay near Newcastle upon Tyne.

Tamils fly in

Fifty Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka arrived at Heathrow just before the deadline for new visa requirements. **Page 2**

ANC bomb

The African National Congress claimed responsibility for the second bomb to hit Johannesburg in three days. **Earlier story, page 7**

Wider loans

The Bristol and West Building Society is offering loans up to £30,000 "for any purpose" including children's education or buying cars and holidays. **Page 36**

Star wars

Europe's lack of enthusiasm for the Star Wars strategy is exasperating America. Prevention of war in space was the Soviet theme at Geneva. **Pages 6 and 7**

Peace pitfalls

The Reagan Administration has welcomed King Hussein's latest initiative but is showing awareness of the many blocks on the road to peace in the Middle East. **Page 6**

Australia win

Australia beat England by three wickets in the first of the one-day cricket internationals at Old Trafford, Manchester. Botham was the man of the match. **Page 24**

ENIGMA

Find today's Codename Enigma clue in the back page information service - plus details of how to telephone your entry in this last competition of the series.

(SPECIAL REPORT)

Market research: The industry is booming in Britain, thanks to modern techniques, business reorganization and a new awareness of the needs of consumers. **Pages 14-17**

Leader page, 11
Letters: On Tamils: from Mr M. Barber, and Mr Shirley Williams; Gatwick: from Mr P. W. Bryant, and Mr P. N. L. Terry; schoolbooks: from Mr J. A. Grimmer
Leading articles: Football after Brussels: the Europa project. Features, pages 9, 10, 13
Liverpool and Turin the morning after: more Lebanon ironies: the essence of a university education. Spectrum: the growing power of South Africa's black miners. Friday page: a day at the races.
Obituary: page 12
Mr Leslie Germany

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Emergency legislation will curb sale of alcohol and tickets

Thatcher wants FA to withdraw clubs from Europe

● The European Federation is expected to suspend six English qualifiers from next season's three competitions
● Pre-empting the European decision, Mrs Thatcher expects the FA to withdraw all English clubs from European matches.
● Mr Patrick Radcliffe, the British fan

who died, was identified after his wife telephoned the Belgian police to report him missing **Page 5**
● Signor Giovanni Agnelli, honorary president of Juventus, has called for the exclusion of British teams from matches abroad until the violence problem is solved. **Back page**

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is expecting the Football Association to withdraw all English clubs from European matches in the wake of the Brussels disaster, prompting any decision yet to be reached by the European football authorities.

In a day of frenetic Downing Street activity, it was revealed that emergency legislation would be presented to the Commons next month to clamp down on domestic soccer violence, that the government was donating £250,000 to an Italian disaster fund, and a cable was sent to Mr Bert Millichip, chairman of the FA, in Mexico City for England's three-match tour, asking him and Mr Ted Croker, the FA secretary, to return for urgent talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Mr Millichip, who is expected back in London today, said: "I believe the behaviour of our hooligans over the past year, culminating in the terrible events in Brussels, may well mean that we might not see our football in Europe. Enough is enough, and we cannot put up with these problems any longer."

Mrs Thatcher came out of a two-hour meeting with ministers at 10 and said that her blood had boiled to see the

scenes shown on television. "It isn't that we're numb, we're worse than numb. Everything, but everything, must be done."

Ministers have in mind a ban of up to two years on English participation in European competition football, deliberately excluding Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from Brussels penalty.

But all-party support is being sought meanwhile to accelerate action against violence at domestic matches.

Mrs Thatcher, who sent messages of regret to the Belgian and Italian Prime Ministers expressing our horror and revulsion, said she wanted domestic action before the start of the next season in August. "It's the things that are destroying football. I think we

must concentrate on this country and on cleaning up football. After all, if we clean it up here and we come to identify the thugs and make certain that they can come neither to our football grounds nor to those overseas, that we really will have got to the root of the problem."

She said that closed circuit television observation of football crowds would be given maximum priority to ensure that the thugs were brought to trial and convicted on filmed evidence and given stiff sentences. But the rush legislation, expected to receive all-party backing, could also include the enforcement of membership card schemes for all supporters, alcohol bans on transport and around grounds, strict segregation of supporters, and a prohibition on the sale of tickets on the day of "problem" matches.

Meanwhile, Mr Justice Popplewell's inquiry into sports ground safety and the crowd violence at Birmingham on May 11, is to be extended to include inquiry evidence on the Brussels tragedy.

Mrs Thatcher is requesting first-hand evidence from Mr

Continued on back page, col 1

David Miller analyses the crisis in British soccer

Uefa poised to ban English clubs from competitions

The gates of Europe are about to be bolted against the violent hooliganism of English football supporters. The European federation (Uefa) is expected to suspend the six English qualifiers for next season's three competitions, when they meet two days before the first round draw is made in Geneva on July 4.

Uefa are morally obliged at last, to take this ultimate disciplinary measure, which has hung menacingly over the English game during some 15 years of repetitive, disgraceful aggression by a mindless but increasing minority.

The tragedy of Brussels demands the exclusion of the English for the time being, for the safety of all in future, and the mood of Uefa officials here yesterday was unmistakable.

"International football is at the crossroads. We are not willing to let the game be killed by an irresponsible element which has no place in football stadiums," stated Herr Hans Bangert, the general secretary of Uefa, who for many years has been warning English authorities of the consequences of uncontrolled violence among supporters travelling overseas.

It is possible that the suspension could also exclude England's national team from the 1988 European championships in West Germany, as well as Everton, Manchester United, Liverpool, Spurs, Southampton and Norwich, who have qualified for Europe next season.

M. Jacques Georges, of France, president of Uefa, and one of the few remaining romantics of football not reoccupied with money, said

How it happened
Media reaction
Police blamed
Talk of two cities
Leading article

Resende, of Portugal, and Mr Eric Hyldstrup, of Denmark, will conduct an inquiry. After consulting with the Belgian FA and the Brussels civic authorities, the executive committee of Uefa, who will take the decision on July 2.

Senior Resende said yesterday: "We have to find a solution, irrespective of who is hurt and how much."

It is not evident at present from Uefa's attitude whether Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland clubs would be included in a suspension. Celtic fans were involved in controversy last season in the tie with Rapid of Vienna, and a replay was ordered at Old Trafford.

A suspension of English clubs would mean that teams from both England and Scotland could not play in Belgium.

They would be excluded until the Belgians were convinced that the necessary steps had been taken to prevent any

violenace happening when a British team visited.

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He has ordered a full inquiry into what happened.

Last night there were still 91 fans in hospital, at least a dozen of them seriously ill. Only a handful of arrests were made and half a dozen Liverpool fans are likely to face prosecution along with four from Juventus.

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After the violence: The grim rows of shoes (Photograph: Frank Baron).

National Front 'started violence'

The National Front was last night accused of inciting the eruption of violence among Liverpool supporters.

On his arrival back in the city last night Mr John Smith, Liverpool football club chairman, said he had evidence of National Front involvement and would be compiling a dossier for Mr Neil McFarlane, the Minister for Sport.

He said that six supporters with cockney accents, who said they were National Front members and followers of

Chelsea, came up to him after the game was over "boasting they had caused the trouble and were very pleased with their actions."

The National Front element led other Liverpool supporters into a confrontation they would not otherwise have joined, Mr Smith said. But he did accept that Liverpool supporters caused the trouble.

Some fans were adamant that the trouble had been started by organized gangs from London. One Liverpool supporter from

Leeds said that he saw British National Party leaflets being distributed before the match. They were littered across the terraces afterwards.

Another supporter, Mr Alan Gadd, aged 21, from Gateshead, Liverpool, said: "There's no doubt in my mind that the National Front were behind the trouble. At one point they were openly handing out banners saying things like 'kill the niggers'."

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Belgian minister urges ban on British teams

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Belgian Interior Minister, M Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, who recommended a ban on all British football clubs after Wednesday's tragedy in Brussels, said yesterday the policing inside the stadium might have been inadequate but Belgians did not want to live in a police state "just so that the British can hold football matches here."

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Driver in crash 'on holiday job'

Shocked and injured survivors of the school holiday camp crash in France which killed seven Britons, including five children, were being flown home last night. Several of the 39 survivors are still too ill to be moved. Four underwent major surgery yesterday and one schoolgirl, on a respirator after head injuries, was said last night to be "in a very serious condition".

The cause of the crash remains undetermined. One theory being examined by investigators is that the driver, who was killed, suffered a heart attack. It was revealed last night he was working while on a week's break from his normal job as a car worker in Luton.

Mr Harry Hughes, aged 39, had worked for the Donstable-based coach company part-time for 15 years and a spokesman for the firm said last night: "As far as I know the driver was in excellent health. He didn't drink or smoke."

The Department of Transport said it has been considering introducing more frequent medical checks for coach and bus drivers. Drivers have to renew their licence every five years, at present, but they do not need a medical.

PGL Young Adventure Holidays of Ross-on-Wye, said they would be conducting their own independent inquiry into what happened.

The 39 survivors were injured in the crash which happened at noon on Wednesday on a notorious black spot section of the Route Nationale 110 at Ladignan near Montpellier. The coach careered out of control, smashed through a roadside crash barrier and rolled onto its roof.

Five of the most seriously injured included a schoolgirl, Andrea Perkins, 14, from St Albans, who underwent brain surgery last night. Her condition has been described as "very serious".

A schoolboy Richard Biggs, aged 15, from St Albans, condition of international hockey player. Mr Keith Mackay, headmaster of a broken spine. Mr Paul Bollington, geography teacher at Beaumont School, has broken ribs and shoulder, and John Evans, aged 14, was out of a coma last night with cast and bruises and sprained ankle. All four were said to be out of danger.

Most of the injuries are believed to be to the stomach, back, chest and head. Some have cuts and bruises.

British consul general to the South of France Mr David Gladstone, said it was a "miracle" so few lost their lives. "We owe this to the immense skill and dedication of the French authorities and their medical teams."

Some children were thrown out of the coach as it careered off the road, others were

Continued on page 2, col 2

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Supervision wrangle Call for midday school closures

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Head Teachers are likely to stop supervising pupils at midday and to start closing schools at lunchtime in some areas as a result of a motion passed yesterday by the National Association of Head Teachers.

The heads, meeting at their annual conference in Scarborough, resolved unanimously to organize a campaign to end lunchtime supervision, caused by the teachers' pay dispute. Members of the two biggest teachers' unions have been refusing to supervise at lunchtime for three months.

The vote came after Mr Ken Brooker, from London, told the conference that most head teachers were acting illegally at lunchtime by supervising children in conditions which contravened the Health and Safety at Work Act. He said

"If you think you will protect children by keeping them at school in unsatisfactory conditions then an accident will happen and you are going to be liable."

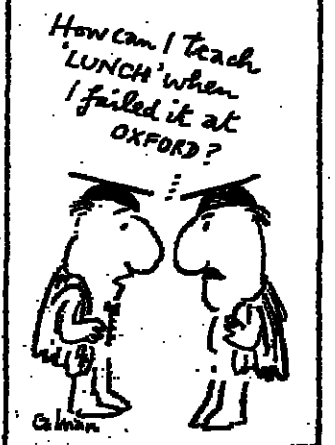
Mr Brooker wanted the

conference to vote for an amendment saying that heads supervising on their own without adequate professional support at midday were ill-advised to do so. This, however, was defeated.

Afterwards Mr David Hart, general secretary of the 21,000 strong association, said the vote meant that nothing was ruled out. "But that we mean we will probably send out a series of guidelines to branches which will include a number of options they could adopt to bring pressure to bear."

"One option will be a branch ballot of the members seeking support for courses of action which might involve closures of schools at midday across the board, or closure of schools where the head is supervising on his own or only with one other teacher."

Leaving age call, page 3



Head teachers vote for school-leaving age of 18 and new colleges

From Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent, Scarborough

Head teachers resolved yesterday that the school-leaving age should be raised to 18 and that all children should have the opportunity for further education or training.

That could lead to a new tier of junior or community colleges for 14 to 18 years olds, Mr Mike Pipes, head of Portsmouth boys' school, told the National Association of Head Teachers conference at Scarborough.

Those colleges could be run on further education, rather than the school regulations to allow for more flexibility in hours, discipline, and teaching, he said.

Mr Pipes, chairman of the association's committee, explained that he was using the word "flush out" any plans the Government, and in particular Lord Young, Minister without Portfolio and the Government's expert on youth training, might be hatching.

"This is a speculative scenario," he said, before describing his proposal for breaking education into three phases. From five to nine or 10, children would go to first schools, he said; from 10 to 14 to high schools, and from 14 to 18 to junior or community colleges.

The motion moved by Mr John Swallow, head of Ongar comprehensive school, Essex, was amended to delete any school-leaving age to 14. Speakers said the association never intended to suggest that schooling should end at 14.

The original motion, which proposed the school-leaving age should be raised to 18 or reduced to 14, had been misinterpreted by the media, they said.

What was needed was a more flexible deal for young people from the ages of 14 to 18; "a shift from the book-learning

approach to the more practical application of education in its broadest sense". Mrs Doris Rivalland, head teacher designate of Herbert Carter secondary school in Poole, Dorset, said.

Mrs Mary Mascall, from Haggerston, said Britain was the only leading industrial nation where most 16-year-olds sought employment direct from school. In Japan, 85 per cent of young people remained in full-time education until 19 or 20, and vocational training was provided by employers.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, has approved with minor exceptions a school reorganization plan for Hull: children will leave primary school at 11; sixth forms will be replaced by two colleges; and about 30 schools will be closed.

The planners say the reorganization is necessary because of falling roles.

Separate pay talks proposed

A four-point plan to overhaul radically negotiating machinery for teachers' pay and prevent strikes was unveiled yesterday by Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers.

His speech, larded with derogatory references to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, who is due to address the conference today, proposed a statutory negotiating body to separate talks about heads' salaries.

Mr Hart said that the National Union of Teachers' majority on the teachers' side of the Burnham negotiating committee should be abolished, and that the convention that only the leader of the teachers' side (the NUT general secretary) could speak should be removed.

This year, he explained, the association was not allowed to speak in Burnham about its pay claim because the NUT blocked its request.

The Remuneration of Teachers Act, 1965 should be repealed, he said, and replaced with a body incorporating salaries and conditions of service. Such a body would have the following features:

● The Secretary of State for Education would be represented but his power of veto would be removed.

● A conditions-of-service agreement could be negotiated for one year at a time to deal with the concern that conditions might be "sold" for short-term losses.

● There would be the option of "open access pendulum

arbitration", with the conciliation service Asa. Under this procedure the arbitrator accepts the management's or teacher's case in full, the aim being to produce realistic claims.

● There would be four standing centres for heads' salaries, teachers' salaries, conditions of service, and pensions.

Heads' pay had to be negotiated separately, he said.

● More than 20,000 teaching jobs in England and Wales are to disappear after a review of staffing levels, Mr David Hart said.

Dealing with premature retirements, he said in 1978-79 the figure was 1,357 and by 1983-84 it had risen to 2,285, with the average age falling from 58 to 56.2 because of poor morale.

Sinclair losses put at £5m by survey

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Sinclair Research may have lost up to £5 million in the last financial year depending on accountancy write-offs, according to stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie which has forecast home computers sales for 1985.

Sinclair Research turnover for the financial year ending in April is expected to be between £9.5 million and £10 million. Sinclair is still commanding about 40 per cent of the home computer market, according to the survey. But the company has cash flow difficulties and sales are very low in the summer.

Last year about one million of the 1.7 million home computers sales in Britain took place in the 10 weeks before Christmas. Sales were then about 100,000 a week, now they are about 25,000 a month.

The Wood Mackenzie study is optimistic. About £220 million of home computers will be sold this year and £265 million next year. By the end of this year just over one in five households in Britain will have a computer and by the end of next year one in four.

Thorn EMI, Timex and now AB Electronics, principal manufacturers of Sinclair computers, have extended credit for two months. Some payments to these suppliers are due about the end of next month, although they are expected to be negotiable. Thorn EMI and Timex are owed about £10 million.

Sir Clive Sinclair, founder of the company, is trying to raise £15 million by selling equity.

ICL, the largest British computer manufacturer, has ties through its chairman, Mr Robb Wilmot, with Sinclair Research. Mr Wilmot is a director of Sinclair and Sinclair's first screen technology is being used by ICL in its new microcomputer workstation.

ICL might consider a share in Sinclair.

Thorn EMI has rejected any equity in exchange for debt.

Next month could be crucial for Sir Clive as he needs to order microchips soon for computers to be made for this year's Christmas market. The company is carrying £30 million of stock.

Wood Mackenzie projections			
	1985	1986	1987
Hardware	£220m	£220m	£220m
Peripherals	£270m	£270m	£270m
Software	£140m	£170m	£170m
Total market value	£630m	£660m	£660m
Unit sales	1.25m	1.5m	1.75m
Average unit value	£175	£173	£173
% households	22	25	25

Market share predictions 1985			
	%		%
Sinclair	40		
Amstrad	20		
Commodore	20		
Acorn (less than)	10		
Others	10		

BBC2 to show plays in summer season

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC is to run a twice-weekly series of drama productions on BBC2 during the summer, concentrating much of the corporation's play output on the minority channel.

Mr Peter Goodchild, the corporation's head of plays, announced yesterday that the season of 25 plays would contain work by Harold Pinter, *The Dumb Waiter*, one of his earliest works, and *One for the Road*, with Alan Bates. Mr Goodchild said: "These plays represent a considerable

investment in new writing talent. A number of them are second works by writers whose first plays for television were transmitted last summer.

As well as this, the mix contains new works for television by such distinguished writers as Howard Barker, William Trevor and Andrew Davis.

The season begins on June 11 and will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with the more unconventional work being shown on Thursday.

Police act to block pop festival

Police set up road blocks on approach roads to Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain yesterday to ensure that a ban on the holding of a pop festival during the summer solstice in three weeks is effective.

The National Trust and English Heritage have won court orders banning the festival after damage by young people attending last year's illegal one.

Youth on second murder charge

Paul Bostock, aged 18, a meat processor, of Blakesley Walk, Beaumont Leys, Leicestershire, who is accused of murdering Amanda Weeton, a nurse, was charged yesterday with murdering Caroline O'Connor, aged 33, of Danvers Road, Leicester, who was killed while walking in July 1983. He was remanded in custody for seven days.

Cavalry helmet theft order

Jeffrey McGoldrick, a former trooper with the Household Cavalry, who admitted stealing a ceremonial state helmet valued at £1,500 from Knightsbridge Barracks and dishonestly handling its chin strap and two rosettes, was conditionally charged for two years and ordered to pay £750 compensation yesterday by Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court.

Legion survey

Questionnaires were sent yesterday to more than 10,000 people treated at Stafford district general hospital, where Legionnaires' disease caused 39 deaths.

Miner to appeal

Russell Shankland, aged 21, the miner jailed for life for the murder of Mr David Wilkie, a taxi driver, during the coal strike, is to appeal against his conviction, his solicitor confirmed yesterday.

Breath-test law criticized

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Innocent motorists may be convicted of drink driving offences because of a legal maze surrounding breath testing, an article in the *Road Traffic Law Bulletin* said yesterday.

According to recent court rulings, a motorist's evidence concerning alcohol consumption was irrelevant unless the intoximeter could be shown to be malfunctioning. Mr Alan Beaven, a barrister specializing in drink driving cases, writes:

But the motorist was presumed to be correct unless evidence of its malfunctioning could be obtained. The prosecution was not obliged, however, to disclose documents about its malfunctioning and practically all police forces did not do so because of administrative inconvenience, Mr Beaven told *The Times*.

In an unreported Divisional Court ruling, Lord Justice Watkins said the validity and accuracy of the print-out from the Lion intoximeter 3000 could not be challenged by expert evidence showing that, according to the amount of alcohol drunk by the defendant, the machine could not be working properly.

Lord Justice Watkins stated: "It may be difficult for a defendant to produce evidence of an acceptable kind, the more so when he is denied access to the record of maintenance of the machine, upon which a defendant has taken a test."

But the motorist was able to have a blood or urine test immediately after being tested. Quoting the ruling, Mr Beaven said the blood or urine option was temporary and

motorists for a number of reasons decline it. They may be unfamiliar with the procedure, do not want to trouble a doctor, think the machine must be right, or think they will have to pay a doctor's fee.

Lord Justice Watkins's ruling was not known by many defence solicitors, but was widely known among police forces, Mr Beaven said. "The evidence of alcohol consumption is now legally irrelevant. It cannot be used to support a conviction or an acquittal."

The motorist who drank two pints of beer, not the equivalent of eight points registered on the machine, and had a witness to prove it, might in the past have been believed by magistrates. But now that evidence would be inadmissible, Mr Beaven said.



Air crews' new look

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Miss Sue Smith (left) and Miss Pauline Marriott modelling the new-style uniforms for British Airways crews at Heathrow Airport, London, yesterday. Staff will greet the airline's £1,000 million privatization with a smart stripy look next spring.

The international fashion designer, Roland Klein, has created elegant new uniforms of dark blue blazer, grey woolen

skirts or trousers, with shirts, blouses, ties and scarves in blue, red, and silver grey stripes, supplying a flash of colour.

"Staff are our ambassadors and we are often judged on their performance and appearance," Mr Colin Marshall, the airline's chief executive, said.

British Airways will spend nearly £5 million on the new uniforms. Photograph: Bill Warhurst

Safeguards urged for tenants' insurance

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Leaseholders and tenants faced so badly over difficulties with insurance that legal changes were needed, Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, said yesterday.

Sir Gordon, who was speaking in London to the Chartered Insurance Institute, said that this usually arose because block insurance was taken out by the owner of freehold, usually the landlord, for a number of properties so that all parts of buildings and areas common to all tenants were insured.

"Leaseholders and tenants are often not able to ascertain whether the freeholder has insured buildings for an adequate sum, or that they are covered for the comprehensive range of perils," he said.

Another difficulty was that as the freeholder was the only one with the right to claim, if the claim was not lodged at the proper time the only redress open to the leaseholder or tenant was to sue the landlord in the courts. That could be a slow and expensive procedure.

Sir Gordon said: "It is difficult to see how the position of leaseholders and tenants can be substantially improved short of an overhaul of the law." He suggested that possibly all tenants should have a statutory right to inspect policies to ensure their adequacy.

A more radical legal move would be to make it possible for groups of leaseholders more easily to set up corporate bodies to buy and administer freeholds.

The plight of leaseholders and tenants has emerged since the Office of Fair Trading produced its discussion paper on household insurance last June.

Sir Gordon indicated that no final conclusions had yet been reached.

Personal loans offer by building society

Bristol and West Building Society today started offering loans "for any purpose" including children's education, buying a car and paying for holidays.

With the Government considering new powers to give building societies wider lending powers, the society launched its scheme claiming "it shows the room for initiative which is open to building societies even under current legislation".

The scheme offers personal loans, of up to £30,000, to its existing borrowers. But because the loan is secured on the borrower's house, it is within the existing legal provisions governing the building societies' activities.

New legislation under consideration would allow societies to make unsecured loans.

The Building Societies Association said that because the loans were secured they would present "absolutely no problem". They would not qualify for tax relief.

Launching the scheme, the society's general manager, said there was no better risk than lending "to a proven borrower who has been on our books for years". Even with the new scheme, there were ample funds available to meet all foreseeable mortgage demands, he added.

The personal loans are being made available at a rate of interest 3 per cent higher than the society's basic mortgage rate. That would mean an interest charge of 16.7 per cent. Converted into annual percentage rate of charge, that gives a rate of 18.5 per cent over 20 years or 26.6 per cent over two years.

Irish divorce ban upheld in Europe

The Irish Republic has been told that its constitutional ban on divorce does not contravene the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Commission on Human Rights said at Strasbourg yesterday, that the right to marry guaranteed by the convention does not include the right to divorce and marry again.

Irish law prohibits divorce and does not recognize foreign divorce decrees obtained by couples who do not maintain domicile abroad.

The appeal to the European Commission of Human Rights was brought by a Dublin couple, Dr Roy Johnston and Janice Williams, who have lived together since 1971 and have a daughter. They claimed that the ban on divorce

prevents them from setting up a legitimate family under Irish law.

Dr Johnston is separated from his former wife.

Even if the couple and their child maintain a "genuine family relationship," the Commission said, the convention does not obligate the State to "undermine" the prohibition of divorce either by granting some form of legal recognition to unmarried couples or giving them full parental rights.

According to the Commission, Ireland has discharged its obligation under the charter to "respect family life by recognizing the physical separation of couples whose marriage has broken down. The state need not go further, it said.

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National Front blamed • How Brussels prepared • The Scottish approach EUROPEAN CUP DISASTER



The aftermath: Mr John Smith (left), chairman of Liverpool FC and Mr Peter Robinson, secretary, at the barrier which separated rival fans at the Heysel stadium yesterday; Mrs Thatcher speaking outside 10 Downing Street with Mr Neil Macfarlane (left), sports minister and Mr Richard Luce, foreign minister; Mr Leslie Wilson reunited with his daughter, aged 10, at Speke airport Liverpool; Signor Alberto Moschella, from Turin, being visited by friends in a Brussels hospital.

THE RECRIMINATIONS

Club chairman blames failure of Belgian police to act

Officials of Liverpool Football Club, with the experience of six previous European finals in three competitions and a record of crowd discipline and control overseas which hitherto had been comparatively good, are appalled by the tragedy.

Yet they are adamant that local ineptitude was the catalyst for Wednesday night of horror. Mr John Smith, the chairman and newly-appointed chairman of the Sport Council, and his general manager, Mr Peter Robinson, claim that the Heysel Stadium would not be granted a certificate under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act in the United Kingdom.

This opinion is confirmed by the statement of Herr Hans Bangert, the general secretary of the European Football Federation (UEFA), who said yesterday that it "was out of the question that this stadium should be used again" although he added that with better behaviour by the Liverpool fans there would have been no disaster.

Soon after the collapse of the crush barriers and the wall in a corner of the terrace next to the main stand, during which many died or were injured, Mr Smith and Mr Robinson went to that section of the ground which had been termed a 'neutral' area. They visited the stadium again yesterday morning in search of evidence that might mitigate the accusations against their club.

They said that parts of the exterior walls had been broken down at the back, behind both the area allocated to Liverpool's

The long running epidemic of violence by British football fans which unequivocally precipitated disaster in the European Cup Final here, accelerated towards the point of crisis on Wednesday night because of four factors:

The inefficient design of the 53-

year-old Heysel Stadium

The maladroit sale of tickets by the Belgium Football Association

The fragile segregation arrangements

The failure of the police to act early enough

DAVID MILLER reports from Brussels

standing spectators and to the neutral area. These openings admitted hundreds, perhaps thousands of spectators without tickets.

In consequence, the density of the packed Liverpool area was unduly increased, while non-paying Liverpool supporters were able to infiltrate the neutral section, which was largely occupied by Italians, living abroad who purchased tickets through the Belgian FA, and not through their own club Juventus, of Turin.

"If there had been a clearcut Liverpool end of the stadium, and a Juventus end, there would have been no disaster", Mr Robinson claimed, with some justification.

"I had warned the Belgian FA several weeks ago about the danger of the neutral area adjacent to the Liverpool section, with the proposed empty security zone between the two, especially if tickets for the neutral area were sold to two countries."

"The Belgian FA claimed they would only be sold to Belgians. When we arrived at the stadium on Wednesday, I immediately said that police

were needed in the empty security zone, because it was clear that the neutral zone was predominantly filled by Italians with black and white colours and that the barriers, which they say the police had approved the day before, would not be adequate.

"I was angry that it appeared that three-quarters of the two end terraces were for Juventus and a quarter for Liverpool. UEFA should stipulate a clear division of the two ends."

"When the crowded supporters in the Liverpool section saw other supporters with red scarves in the adjacent neutral zone they decided, illegally to push into that area and make it a complete Liverpool end."

"There were one or two early skirmishes and if the police had acted alertly then, the eventual rush by Liverpool supporters which caused the Italians to panic could have been avoided."

Photographers, who had probably the best view of the disaster, said that riot police were beating spectators of both nationalities at random at the very moment when the crush

which caused the tragedy was at its peak.

Mr Smith said that some Liverpool spectators whom he questioned in the neutral zone were unable to produce tickets, and presumably had not paid. Mr Robinson claimed that those with tickets for the neutral zone are thought to have bought them on the black market, created by the random sale by the Belgian FA, which had said it would sell only to Belgians.

There is disagreement between the Belgium FA and English witnesses on the condition of the terraces. Liverpool supporters claimed there were loose lumps of concrete which their violent fans were able to hurl at the Italians, and that iron crash barriers were easily pulled out and used as weapons.

The Belgians said that iron bars were needed to break up the concrete before using it as missiles; but if those bars were not dismantled barriers, what were the police doing in allowing conspicuously dangerous weapons to be taken into the ground?

The lack of supervision was also evident from empty beer bottles. Many fans were drunk, and photographers witnessed broken bottles being used as weapons.

The police presence was never strong enough until too late. There was no searching of spectators at turnstiles, as there is in Britain. The dozens of mounted police who eventually entered the arena were a total irrelevance, parading in formation as if at some tattoo, and achieving nothing.

BRITISH VICTIM

Archivist from Ulster died in riot

The Briton killed in the Liverpool-Juventus riot was one of Northern Ireland's first professional archivists. Patrick Radcliffe, aged 37, worked in Brussels as an archivist with the EEC. His twin brother, George, flew to the Belgian capital yesterday to make funeral arrangements.

Mr Radcliffe, a graduate in modern history from Oxford University, once worked for the Public Record Office in Northern Ireland where he specialised in archive administration.

Mr Brian Trainor, director of the Public Record Office, said he was stunned.

He said: "We remember him for his infectious enthusiasm, both for work and for life. He was a marvellous person who had no time for the intolerance and pettiness of Northern Ireland."

His father, Mr James Radcliffe, was too distressed to talk at his home near Ballynahinch, co Down. A cousin, Mr Kevin Sheehy, said: "We were watching the horrific scenes on television, coming live from Brussels completely unaware that Patrick was caught up

SCOTLAND

Drink curb has cut arrests

By Ronald Faux

The disaster has focused international attention on the successful measures introduced in Scotland to defuse football violence.

The Scottish Football Association said yesterday that serious disorders caused by drunken fans had been reduced by the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act of 1981, which banned drink from sports grounds and drunken spectators from watching a match or sporting event.

The law gives police powers to stop and search coaches on their way to a match and to arrest the driver and the operator of a coach if it is found to have alcohol on board.

The Act bans anyone from carrying anything that could be used as a missile into a sports ground.

An SFA official said that it was now much easier to clear up the terraces after a big match with fewer cans and bottles left behind, a clear sign of more sober support for the teams.

DOSSIER FOR MINISTER

National Front is accused

From Peter Davenport Liverpool

A subdued army of Liverpool supporters trooped home yesterday from the carnage of Brussels amid growing accusations that National Front infiltrators had instigated the terrace rioting that led to 42 deaths at the European Cup Final.

On the morning after British soccer's worst night in a history of hooliganism abroad, Mr John Smith, chairman of Liverpool and of the Sports Council, said that he had evidence of NF involvement and would be compiling a dossier for Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister of Sport.

Mr Smith said on his return that six fans, who said they were National Front members and followers of Chelsea, came up to him an hour after the game in a threatening manner which made him feel "rather scared". He said: "They were very pleased with their actions of that evening."

He believed the National Front element had led other Liverpool fans into a confrontation which otherwise they would not have joined.

Mr Smith said about the

disturbance: "It is the biggest tragedy we have had to face, not only as a football club, but as a city. What should have been a night of celebration turned out to be the biggest tragedy in football in our lifetime."

Mr Peter Robinson, the Liverpool club secretary, said that the ground was not suitable for the occasion and would not have qualified for a general safety certificate in Britain. Before the game the club had requested improvements in segregation facilities, but they did not appear to have been made, he said.

The involvement of NF elements, usually associated with some of the London clubs, was being offered as an explanation for the uncharacteristic eruption of violence among the ranks of Liverpool supporters that destroyed at a stroke the reputation the club's fans have built up over the 22-year history of their team in European competitions.

Some of the fans were adamant that the trouble had been started by organized gangs from London. One Liverpool supporter from Leeds said he saw British National Party

leaflets being distributed before the match. They were littered across the terraces at the end of the game.

Mr Alan Gadd, aged 21, from Gateacre, Liverpool, said: "A lot of people causing trouble were from West Ham and Chelsea. They were wearing Liverpool colours, but they had cockney accents."

"There is no doubt in my mind that the NF were behind the trouble. At one point they were openly handing out banners saying things like 'kill the niggers' and distributing National Front leaflets."

Mr William Lawrenson, aged 44, and president of Liverpool's recently-formed supporters club at Newport, South Wales, had a similar view. He said: "The trouble started with nine young lads wearing Liverpool colours but who spoke with southern accents. I know the club has fans all over the country but there was something about them which made me identify them with the National Front. I have been on enough grounds around the country to recognize the signs."

"They were fit young men looking for trouble."

WHAT LIVERPOOL TOLD BRUSSELS PLANNERS:

'We have best behaved crowd'

From Ian Murray Brussels

The Belgian authorities believed they were preparing for the worst. British fans had built up an awesome reputation for violence and there was real concern when it was realized that the final would be between an English club and one from Italy, where the fans also have a fiery name.

A planning meeting of the security forces who would have to patrol the match was held on April 26 between police, the para-military gendarmerie, local authorities and the Ministry of the Interior.

They decided to send a delegation to Rotterdam on May 3 to watch policing methods at the match involving the other Liverpool side, Everton. Another delegation was sent to Liverpool for discussions with local police.

There they were told, fatally, that Liverpool supporters were among the best behaved anywhere. However true that had been in the past, it was a desperately wrong reassurance to have given the Belgians.

Nevertheless, they drew up their heaviest-ever concentration of police.

For the Liverpool game, 800 gendarmes and 600 policemen were called up beforehand. The



King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of Belgium visit the Brussels military hospital to pay their respects

aim was to have 2,500 men on duty at the end, considered the most dangerous time.

The bulk of the police were stationed outside the ground before the match, to search people going in and clamp down on incidents already starting to break out. Inside, there were about 120 men.

Of these just 40 had been assigned to form a human fence between the Liverpool area and

the suspect "neutral" Z stand. Another 30 men formed a similar barrier between the Juventus supporters and "neutral" ticket holders at the far end of the ground.

They were spread out along a frail green wire fence supported by metal poles. It was the work of a very few moments for a small number of louts to tear them down.

FAR RIGHT TACTICS

Stadiums hunting grounds for extremist recruiters

By Robin Younts

Claims by Liverpool's chairman, Mr John Smith, that National Front supporters who had already disrupted England's South American football tour last year had been identified as ringleaders in the violence leading to the Brussels disaster brought a blanket denial yesterday from the National Front's chairman, Mr Ian Anderson.

In spite of Mr Anderson's claim that the National Front condemns football violence and has no part in encouraging it, groups waving NF banners have become a common sight at some British football grounds.

Liverpool, though, was not

one of them. Mr Smith said: "We have never seen banners at Liverpool with NF on them, but there were some in Brussels last night". Others spoke of British National Party supporters distributing leaflets outside the Brussels stadium.

National Front supporters were accused of being ringleaders in stirring up violence both at England's recent match in Finland, and at the England versus Scotland international at Hampden Park.

The NF group, whose members Mr Smith claimed to have been identified in Brussels, accompanied the English team to South America in June last

year. On the aircraft to Rio, 10 supporters whose tickets had cost £1,500 each, taunted England's black players, John Barnes of Watford and Mark Chamberlain of Stoke City.

They unfurled Union Jacks bearing the National Front initials and banners with the words "Chelsea NF—send them home" at every opportunity. The Football Association insisted on their removal from the team's hotel, but the group were on the same aircraft as the team again on the return journey home.

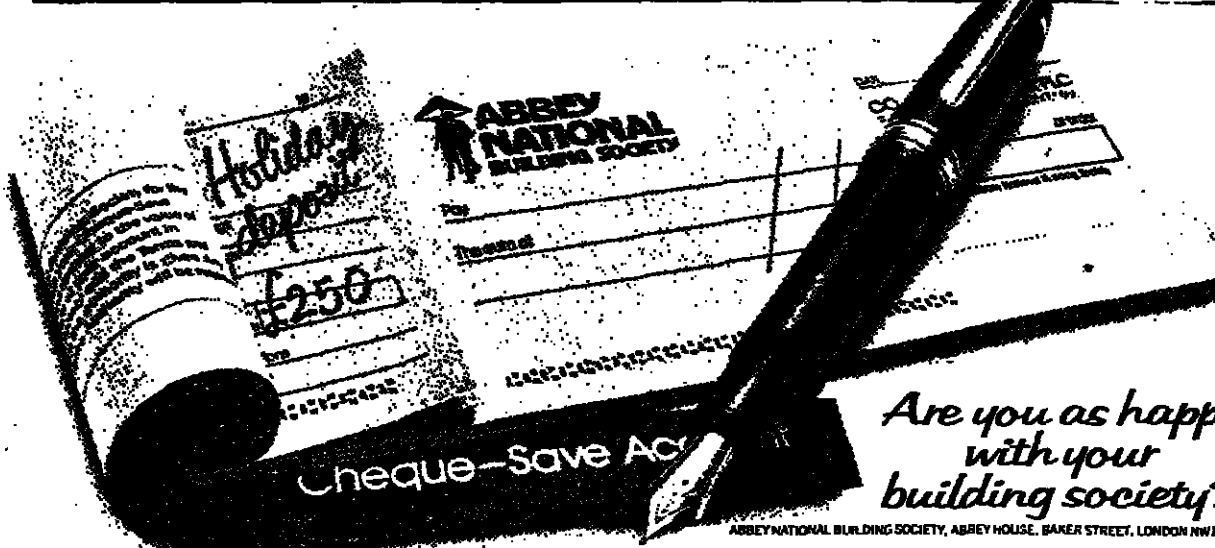
At the time the National Front disclaimed all responsibility for the group's actions.

The picture is complicated not only by false claims and counter-claims, and the lack of clear demarcation among right-wing extremist parties, but also by the recently adopted play of right-wingers posing as anarchists.

Opponents who monitor NF activities say that the extremists are interested in football violence as a means of destabilizing society and winning publicity for themselves. This, they say, adds a new, menacing perspective to the extremists' long-standing campaign to exploit the tribal instincts and underprivileged circumstances among football's younger supporters.

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Tehran greets high-flying Iraqi raiders with a multi-coloured barrage

From Robert Fisk
Tehran

In 1940 it would have been called a "nuisance raid", and so the Iranians treated it yesterday, two, perhaps three, Iraqi jets over high in the night sky over Tehran that the pilots could do no more than fire rockets indiscriminately above the civilian houses in the north of the capital.

It is fast becoming a routine. "Saddam will come at 9.30, as he does every night," said the man in the pharmacy across the road. He pronounced the name of Iraq's President sarcastically, an overlong stress on the first syllable.

In fact, his jets came just before 10, two tiny moving stars far above Tehran, their approach signalled by a total blackout of the entire city.

There was no such thing as pulling a blackout curtain. One moment Tehran was ablaze with streetlights, a bright city all the way to the foothills of the Alborz mountains; the next, the electricity was cut over 10 square miles and it was plunged into the sultry night.

But not for long. Whether or not the Iranian anti-aircraft gunners thought they could hit the Iraqi planes, they put up a barrage of tracer and proximity shells that burst over the city in a riot of explosions and orange flashes.

From the suburbs round Shemiran and the streets where Ayatollah Khomeini has his residence, arcs of fire ascended into the night sky. Further down town, not far from Ferdowsi Street, the Revolutionary Guards sent hundreds of shells towards the little fireflies high above them. The rounds exploded in bubbles of flame that disappeared in less than a second, although one shell traversed the city to burst harmlessly above a building in Fazi Street.

There was no air raid alarm, but Tehran radio immediately began broadcasting air raid precautions; to keep away from balconies and roofs, to take shelter behind walls and in basements, to put out car lights.

On Wednesday night seven people - all from one family - died when Iraqi rockets smashed into their family home in northern Tehran. But yesterday morning the state radio announced, blandly but truthfully, that the latest Iraqi raid had "not succeeded in hitting any target".

In fact, the Iraqi jets, at the limit of their range, apparently fired two missiles harmlessly into fields near Karaj. The planes were probably modified MiG23s and Western diplomats in Tehran suspect they are shooting converted anti-tank rockets with a 17-kilo payload of explosives; the missiles are fired up to 10,000ft above the city, but lose their momentum at high altitude and hit the ground like conventional bombs.

They do not allow the Iraqis to claim they are hitting Tehran and responding to Iranian attacks in Baghdad; in reality, they are mere pinpricks in the Gulf war and were it not for the appallingly low construction standards of houses in many parts of the Iranian capital, the number of those air victims "martyred by the enemy" which appear in the daily newspapers here would be even fewer.

● JERUSALEM: An Israeli court yesterday sentenced a Jewish settler to 22 months imprisonment for conspiring to attack Palestinians. The prosecution said Menachem Neuberger, aged 29, was involved in a plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock mosque, Islam's holiest site in Jerusalem, and attacked Palestinian leaders in the West Bank.

Baghdad claims oil terminal hit

Baghdad (Reuters) - Iraq said its warplanes raided Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf.

A military spokesman said the jets penetrated the Iranian defences and flames and smoke were billowing from the island after the attack. All aircraft returned safely to base after the raid, he added.

He also said Iraqi planes "violently pounded" targets in Tehran in the second attack on the city within five hours.

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On Wednesday night seven people - all from one family - died when Iraqi rockets smashed into their family home in northern Tehran. But yesterday morning the state radio announced, blandly but truthfully, that the latest Iraqi raid had "not succeeded in hitting any target".

In fact, the Iraqi jets, at the limit of their range, apparently fired two missiles harmlessly into fields near Karaj. The planes were probably modified MiG23s and Western diplomats in Tehran suspect they are shooting converted anti-tank rockets with a 17-kilo payload of explosives; the missiles are fired up to 10,000ft above the city, but lose their momentum at high altitude and hit the ground like conventional bombs.

They do not allow the Iraqis to claim they are hitting Tehran and responding to Iranian attacks in Baghdad; in reality, they are mere pinpricks in the Gulf war and were it not for the appallingly low construction standards of houses in many parts of the Iranian capital, the number of those air victims "martyred by the enemy" which appear in the daily newspapers here would be even fewer.



Port call: Prince Andrew, standing before the Lynx helicopter he pilots, answers questions on the frigate HMS Brazen during a short visit to Baltimore.

SLA piling pressure on Unifil Irish

From Christopher Walker
Rosh Hanikra
Israel border

As next week's deadline for Israel's final withdrawal from Lebanon approaches, there has been a serious increase in clashes between United Nations troops and members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) the proxy militia armed, financed and trained by the Israelis.

Yesterday an SLA tank deliberately rammed an armoured personnel carrier belonging to the Irish contingent of UN Truce Supervision Force (UNTSF) in Lebanon. Angry UN officials claim this was the latest of a series of incidents engineered to try to secure for the SLA freedom of movement in the "security zone" carved out north of Israel's border.

The UN official said the incident - which badly damaged the Irish vehicle - had occurred south of the village of Brachy, when the Irish attempted to block the main road with their vehicle to prevent the SLA tank crossing. Because of the geographic location of the zone controlled by the Irish, they have borne the brunt of the rising violence with the Israeli-backed militia.

Over the past fortnight, there have also been clashes between the SLA and UN troops from Finland and Nepal. The violence has provoked a bitter reaction in Dublin and it is threatening to mar next month's state visit by Mr Charles Haughey, Ireland's Taoiseach, to Israel's self-styled President.

"As far as the countries contributing to Unifil are concerned, Israel is being held responsible for the actions of the militia which it created," Mr Timor Goksel, the chief UNIFIL spokesman, told *The Times*. "We have issued a number of strong complaints to Israel about the recent incidents."

He explained that the SLA was not recognized by the Lebanese Government, and therefore was treated similarly by the UN to all other illegal armed groups operating in South Lebanon. "Under our 1978 mandate, it is our duty to prevent them moving about freely if they are not with members of the occupying Israeli Army."

Since the deterioration in relations between the SLA and the 10-nation UN force began nearly two weeks ago, incidents have included scuffles, the wrecking of the command car of Norway's senior officer in Unifil, and at least one occasion when UN troops have had to fire in the air.

The tension is expected to come to a head after next week's withdrawal of Israel's uniformed troops, which is due before Thursday's third anniversary of the Lebanon war. Israel wants to retain indirect control of the security zone via the SLA and has been handing over some of its vacated positions to SLA fighters.

The Republican Governor of Pennsylvania yesterday joined forces with anti-nuclear groups in trying to block the decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to permit the restart of the undamaged half of the Three Mile Island Nuclear power plant.

Governor Richard Thornburgh, who had been a persistent critic of the commission's proceedings, immediately filed suit with the federal appeals court to prevent the plant from starting up again.

In voting four to one to lift the order that has kept the undamaged reactor closed for the past six years, the commission gave "aggravated parties" until June 11 to file suits. The suits sought to keep the plant closed until certain "unsolved issues" involving the character of the General Public Utilities corporation, which operates the plant, have been decided.

Arrested earlier this year on the orders of a civilian judge, Lieutenant Astiz was freed in

Husain's peace offer

America doubtful of Mideast progress

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Although the Reagan Administration has been encouraged by King Hussein's commitment to bring Palestinians into direct negotiations with Israel, American officials see little prospect of early progress towards Middle East peace.

An array of big roadblocks would still have to be removed before a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation could meet at the same table with Israel to negotiate a settlement of the West Bank and Gaza.

These include: The Israeli and US insistence that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation must not include members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO); the need for the PLO to accept publicly United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 and Israel's right to exist; and Israel and American opposition to King Hussein's proposal for an international peace conference, which would include the Soviet Union.

After talks with President Reagan at the White House on Wednesday, the Jordanian monarch called for peace talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on the basis of UN resolutions, including the key 242, which contains guidelines for a peace agreement based on

a return of Arab lands in exchange for a commitment to the Jewish state's security. The King, who briefed congressional leaders yesterday, emphasized that this offer had the full support of Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, who until now has refused to accept Resolution 242 because it dealt with the Palestinian issue only in terms of the refugee problem.

However, a senior American official said after the White House meeting that the US still wanted to hear a public pledge from the PLO to accept Resolution 242 because it dealt with the Palestinian issue only in terms of the refugee problem.

The US has consistently opposed the idea of an international conference at this stage, claiming that it would enable Moscow to "make mischief" in the Middle East. As expected by American officials, Israel quickly denounced King Hussein's proposal for an international conference as "an attempt to sidestep the need for direct negotiations."

● TUNIS: Mr Salah Khalaf, a key leader of the PLO, said yesterday that King Hussein may have mis-stated Palestinian conditions for Middle East peace negotiations (AP reports). Mr Khalaf said the organization had not given up its demand for recognition of a Palestinian right to a homeland before accepting resolutions 242 and 338.

Egypt calls for UN talks as Beirut battle goes on

Beirut (Reuters) - Shia Muslim forces exchanged sporadic fire with Palestinians at two of Beirut's three refugee camps yesterday as Egypt called for a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the 11-day-old battle.

In Damascus the official Syrian news agency said Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Syrian President Hafez Assad had held a second day of talks.

Political sources said they centred on Syria's security role in Lebanon and the Beirut fighting, in which hospital and security sources say more than 300 people have been killed and 1,100 wounded.

Egypt's Foreign Minister, Mr Esmat Abdul-Maguid, told reporters in Cairo that Egypt, currently a Security Council member, had called for a meeting to discuss the crisis.

Beirut Radio said five shells hit a bombed-out sports stadium at the edge of Sabra and Chatila camps yesterday, breaking an overnight lull in the fighting.

A Sunni Muslim mosque and the Arab University were hit when residential areas near Sabra came under shellfire, and a rocket killed one person.

President Gemayel narrowly escaped death two days ago when an anti-tank missile, which military sources said was fired from a Muslim suburb, hit his palace in east Beirut.

Syria and the Amal militia have blamed the fighting on the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, whom they accuse of trying to rebuild the military power in Lebanon he had before Israel's 1982 invasion.

The pro-Syrian Palestine National Salvation Front, in a statement published in Beirut newspapers, again called for a ceasefire. The Front is a Damascus-based coalition of Palestinian groups opposed to Mr Arafat.

But its men have fought alongside Mr Arafat's supporters in the camps, and both reject Amal's demands for the Palestinians to surrender their arms.

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President preaches tax gospel in Main St

From Christopher Thomas
Williamsburg, Virginia

President Reagan took his tax plan to the people yesterday, telling jostling tourists in front of the House of Burgesses in this historic cradle of revolution that America's tax system is rigged, unfair and corrupts honest people.

It was vintage Reagan, a performance all the more evocative because Williamsburg is celebrating the intensive legislative activity 209 years ago that led to the Declaration of Independence. It was here that the fledgling country rejected British taxation.

"Somehow we got lost along the way. We stopped understanding that people work not for the Government but for themselves," Mr Reagan said.

From Williamsburg he flew to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, a little town thoroughly and proudly Middle American, the sort of town entailed to hear its President say: "Someone has figured out that it takes the average taxpayer until almost May until he starts working for himself each year." The US tax year begins in January.

Mr Reagan will deliver a series of speeches over the coming weeks to reinforce his drive for the greatest overhaul of the tax system since federal taxes were imposed on everybody during and immediately after the Second World War. Nobody disputes that the system is a bedlam of complexity and confusion.

In Williamsburg Mr Reagan told the crowd the system had evolved from modest measures "to the behemoth to which we are currently beholden." It was a system that yielded great amounts of revenue but even greater amounts of discontent, disorder and disobedience, a system that Albert Einstein was said to have admitted he could not fathom.

Mr Reagan dwelt almost exclusively on wage earners, leaving the big corporations aside in his drive for wide public support for measures that will be fraught with battles with special interest groups in Congress. While President Carter attacked a business lunch and President Kennedy sponsored investment credits, Mr Reagan is attacking the system wholesale.

He left people with the impression yesterday that their taxes would come down. Take, for example, the person who might work overtime to pay for the children's braces. "The money you earn is taxed at so high a rate as to render your efforts almost totally without point or profit," he said to resounding cheers.

People talked all the time at social get-togethers about how they exploited the system. "After all, goes the thinking, what is immoral about cheating a system that is itself a cheat? This isn't a sin, it's a duty."

He added: "I want a tax system that keeps as much of the money in your wallet as possible. The primary reason is moral: it's your money. The secondary reason is practical: you will do more for the economy with it than the Government will."

Pope plot trial hears about pistol handover

Rome (Reuters) - A prosecutor in the papal assassination conspiracy trial questioned a Turkish defendant yesterday about why he was in Bulgaria at the same time as Mehmet Ali Agca, the man who shot the Pope on May 13, 1981.

Signor Antonio Marini, seeking to show that the Bulgarian secret service hired Turkish hitmen to kill the Pope, was cross-examining Osman Bagci on the fourth day of the trial of three Bulgarians and five Turks.

He said stamps on Bagci's passport showed he crossed Bulgaria at the end of August, 1980.

Agca, who shot and seriously wounded the Pope in St Peter's Square, has said he received a false passport in the name of Faruk Ozgun from a Turkish friend, Abdullah Cadi, at the Turkish-Bulgarian border.

Bagci, aged 39, who is charged with delivering to Agca the pistol with which the Pope was shot, told the court he crossed Bulgaria on his way to a holiday in Turkey from Switzerland.

There will be further compromises as the programme goes through Congress. The benefit to the average taxpayer will be modest, and the political impact seems likely to be less dramatic than some observers are now suggesting.

Because this is a Presidential initiative, the Republicans should get the greater share of whatever credit is going. But this will not be a straight partisan fight with a popular reform being pushed through by one party against the obstruction of the other. The cautiously favourable responses that it will be a much more confused battle as the lobbyists get to work on Capitol Hill.

But even if the tax reform programme is not itself a turning point in American politics, it shows that the battle is on for the centre ground.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Just occasionally a government takes an initiative that has a significance beyond itself, because it illuminates the wider political scene. That is true of President Reagan's tax reform programme, which has dominated political discussion here in Washington this week.

At one level, it is a necessary technical measure to simplify the absurdly complicated American tax system. At another level, it is a bid to redraw the political map of the United States.

The American tax system contains so many exemptions and anomalies that it is mysterious, frustrating and wasteful. Just to tidy up the mess would be worth doing.

But the system is also monstrously unfair, in that wealthy individuals and corporations who are able to pay for specialist advice get most advantage from the various exemptions. So the rich are often paying a smaller proportion of their income in tax than are the less well-off.

In seeking to reform this structure, President Reagan is somewhat unexpectedly raising the flag of social justice. "This time," admitted Congressman Dan Rostenkowski, the Democratic spokesman who responded to the President's broadcast, "it is a Republican President who is bucking his party's tradition as protector of big business and the wealthy."

That is no incidental effect. It is the broader political purpose of this initiative. The Republicans are portraying themselves as the friends of the little guy, as a central feature of their bid to become the majority party in the United States.

Since the early 1930s when Franklin Roosevelt put together his coalition of Northern liberals, Southern conservatives, trade unionists, blacks, Jews and other ethnic minorities, the Democrats have been the natural majority party.

They may have held the White House for only four years since 1968, but not for more than 39 years have the Republicans held a majority in both houses of Congress. The Democrats have for years won most state and local elections, and they customarily have a comfortable majority in the House of Representatives, even if they are now narrowly in a minority in the Senate.

But the Republicans sense the Democratic grip is slipping. The trade unions have been losing members and they cannot be sure of delivering the votes of those who remain. Nor are Southern conservatives as solidly Democratic as they were.

At the San Francisco convention last July, the Democrats were clearly in danger of becoming the party of the minorities and the dispossessed rather than of mainstream America. They are now endeavouring to correct that trend by concentrating on economic, more than social, issues.

But it is natural that the Republicans should be hoping to convert Mr Reagan's personal popularity into a more enduring asset for the party. Just as Mr Reagan is the spokesman for the average American, they are determined to become the party of the average American.

Whether the tax reform programme will achieve this purpose is another matter. The theory is to close the loopholes by removing various tax exemptions, while reducing the rates of tax. Just about the same amount of revenue should be raised as before, but in a more equitable fashion.

Already, however, this has been dented as one interest group after another has sought to retain its particular favoured exemption. The proposals published this week are a compromise version for those put forward earlier by the Treasury.

There will be further compromises as the programme goes through Congress. The benefit to the average taxpayer will be modest, and the political impact seems likely to be less dramatic than some observers are now suggesting.

Because this is a Presidential initiative, the Republicans should get the greater share of whatever credit is going. But this will not be a straight partisan fight with a popular reform being pushed through by one party against the obstruction of the other. The cautiously favourable responses that it will be a much more confused battle as the lobbyists get to work on Capitol Hill.

But even if the tax reform programme is not itself a turning point in American politics, it shows that the battle is on for the centre ground.

Le Grange survives reshuffle

Johannesburg - President Botha of South Africa announced a mini-Cabinet reshuffle last night caused by the death of the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr Nak van der Merwe. The new appointments take effect from July 1 (Michael Hornsby writes).

It had been thought that the president might retire his much-criticized Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, but he retains his position. The newcomer is Dr Willie van Niekerk, hitherto Administrator-General of Namibia, who takes the Health and Welfare portfolio.

Interest of Europeans in Star Wars' French rival enrages America

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States is growing exasperated by the lack of European enthusiasm for its star wars strategic defence initiative (SDI). France, Denmark and Norway have told the US formally that they are not interested in participating in the multi-billion dollar project.

Senior Reagan Administration officials and leading congressmen seemed annoyed that only Britain and West Germany have so far expressed interest in joining the research programme. But even those countries, the US believes, may now be more interested in the Eureka initiative launched by France for European cooperation in space and high technology research.

The language used by Administration officials has grown blunt. Mr Richard Burt, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, said the

United States does not really need European help either financially or technologically. "It is attractive politically," he acknowledged, "but if European nations opted out 'it would be their loss'."

The Eureka initiative has been greeted in Washington with a mixture of annoyance and disappointment. The fact that it is designed specifically to counter the American and Japanese technological challenge has increased the Administration's expectation that countries like Germany and Britain will not, in the end, choose to take an enthusiastic role in the Star Wars programme.

Mr Burt appeared to have accepted that position when he testified before a House foreign affairs subcommittee. He was obviously in no mood to try to coax Europe, as evidenced by

his assurance to congressmen that Western European countries would not be given a free ride if they decided to take part in the SDI.

"If the (allied governments) want to share in the benefits, clearly there will be some costs to them. The United States will not foot the (entire) bill. Just what the European contribution will be is unclear," he said.

Neither Britain nor West Germany has decided precisely to which areas of the SDI they might contribute. Mr Burt predicted that most countries would have decided by the end of the year whether they want to be included. Administration officials have noted that Britain's original coolness to the Eureka initiative appears to have given way to a more enthusiastic reaction.

West Germany seems torn between its strong desire to have access to the new technology and its eagerness not to upset the French, especially since the split that developed at the Bonn summit. There Bonn gave enthusiastic backing to the SDI, while France remained sceptical.

Britain, too, is torn. While it sees advantages in the Eureka initiative, it has no wish to spoil the preferential access to defence information that results directly from its special relationship with the US.

China urges US to halt militarization of space

Peking, (Reuters) - China said yesterday President Reagan's Star Wars space defence plan was aimed at securing American control of outer space and it increased the risk of a preemptive strike by one of the superpowers.

It said the Soviet Union would inevitably be forced to develop its own space-based defensive system which would heighten the danger of East-West war.

The official New China news agency called on the international community to act immediately to stop what it termed the drift towards the militarization of space.

In a commentary coinciding with the resumption of US-Soviet arms control talks in

Geneva, the agency said President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative would continue to figure heavily in the negotiations.

"This US plan is aimed at securing control of space and is destined to force the Soviet Union to develop its own system, thus surely bringing about grave and negative effects on the Geneva talks, on US-Soviet and East-West relations, and on the world situation in general," agency's commentary said.

The commentary concluded: "The US-Soviet space weapons race will inevitably lead to another escalation of the arms race, and it is likely to get out of hand."

Bumper Zimbabwe crop

Harare Official estimates announced here yesterday show Zimbabwe's farmers will earn an unprecedented £173 million from crops this year. (Our correspondent writes)

A spokesman for the national Crop Forecasting Committee in the Ministry of Agriculture said (2.9 million tonnes) and cotton (324 tonnes) would be reaped,

as well as sorghum, finger millet and another small millet. Both the maize and cotton are important currency earners.

Tobacco, the country's biggest single foreign currency producer, whose earnings are not included in crop statistics, is likely to reach nearly 120,000 tonnes, about 10,000 tonnes more than expected.

Euro Airbus breaks into US market

From Frederick Bonhart, Le Bourget

Twenty-eight European Airbus jet transports have been bought by Pan-American Airways. The signing of the \$1.1 billion (£880 million) order, consisting of 12 wide-bodied A310-300 transports and 16 standard A320 airliners, was announced at Le Bourget yesterday.

The A310-300 is an advanced technology, twin-engine, medium to long-range (about 4,000 miles) airliner with a twin-aisle cabin, which can carry 214 passengers and has a flight-deck crew of two pilots. The A320 is a twin-engine short to medium-range airliner, with a single aisle cabin which takes 144 passengers.

Pan-Am has previously announced the selection of the Pratt and Whitney turbo-fan engine for the A310-300, and the International Aero Engines AG turbo-fan engine for the A320.

Airbus Industrie is a European consortium consisting of British Aerospace for Britain, Aerospatiale for France, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm for West Germany, and CASA for Spain.

This consortium manufactures only the airframe and co-ordinates the purchase of engines and avionics according to the customer's wishes.

Pan-Am has the option of buying 13 additional A310-300 and 34 additional A320. It will be the first US airline to put the A310 into scheduled service, and is the first US airline to place an order for the A320.

Delivery is to begin in 1987.

Man of 93 must stay on Death Row

From David Watts, Tokyo

The man who has spent longer on death row than anyone else in the world will stay there.

Sadamichi Hirasawa, aged 93, burst into tears yesterday at the news that his lawyer's claim that he should be released because the 30-year Statute of Limitations has run out had failed.

The death sentence on Mr Hirasawa was confirmed in 1955. The Japanese penal code provides a 30-year Limitation rule but the Justice Ministry interprets that as applying only to accused who have never been captured or who have escaped.

Mr Makoto Endo, Mr Hirasawa's lawyer, said the Tokyo District Court's ruling was "unconstitutional, a violation of the law, and totally unacceptable."

Mr Hirasawa was convicted of the murder of 12 people poisoned in a bank in 1948. The murderer walked into a branch of the Teikoku, or Imperial Bank posing as a sanitation inspector. He made 16 people drink what he said was anti-dysentery medicine. Ten died before medical help could reach them, two died later, and there were four survivors. Mr Hirasawa says he confessed to the murder under torture.

It appears the only way he can now hope to get out of prison is through a trial or an amnesty. Mr Endo has named the man he says committed the murder, who was linked to notorious germ warfare experiments during the Second World War, but has long since died.

Peking communist paper launches foreign edition

From Mary Lee, Peking

China's open-door policy is about to enter into a new phase: an overseas edition of the Chinese Communist Party newspaper, *The People's Daily*, will be launched in Europe, the United States, Japan and Hong Kong on July 1.

"As its target audience is what China perceives to be wealthy overseas citizens - all potential financiers of the motherland's modernization - the overseas edition will be printed in unsimplified Chinese characters."

The overseas edition will replace the newspaper now sold abroad with brighter layout and shorter stories, and articles aimed at overseas Chinese.

The Editor-in-chief, Mr Li Zhuang said: "We recognize that our overseas Chinese friends may not understand

what are 'specialized households' and '10,000-yuan households'."

The editorial direction - it remains the Party's main organ - will still come from Peking. Pages will be made up in *The People's Daily* and transmitted by satellite to Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York, San Francisco and Paris.

A commemorative magazine launching the newspaper carries messages by seven Chinese leaders reflecting current policy lines: greetings to friends overseas and "seek truth from facts."

More than \$800,000 have been invested in a Japanese computerized type-setting machine for the edition. Some 20,000 copies of the paper are currently sold overseas.



Seven up: Mrs Patricia Prustaci leaves St Joseph Hospital in Orange, California with her husband Sam eight days after giving birth to septuplets. She said she felt 'great, just great'.

Envoys put cyclone toll at 10,000

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

A group of diplomats from aid-giving countries and international aid organizations flew down to the cyclone-affected part of Bangladesh and returned convinced that at least 10,000 people had died in the storm and the tidal wave that accompanied it.

They made an on-the-spot assessment of what they saw as the needs of the survivors and, according to one of their number at least, were impressed by the way the Bangladesh Government is handling the relief operation.

The acting High Commissioner of Canada, Mr Peter Thompson, told me yesterday the crops in the area may not suffer too much, since most of the affected area was at the time under grass, but that the main danger now was shortage of food to tide the survivors over until the next harvest in autumn.

He said that, even in those areas where the houses were spared, much food and seed had been destroyed and seed was an immediate need.

Both Mr Thompson and Mr William Joslin, the senior United States aid official in Dhaka, said yesterday that a figure of about 10,000 was probably the correct one for the number killed. A senior Indian official, however, said that with his experience of conditions in the sub-continent he felt the true figure would be nearer 25,000.

South Africa under attack

ANC steps up its bomb campaign

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The African National Congress (ANC), the main underground resistance to white rule in South Africa, has claimed responsibility for a bomb explosion that wrecked consulting rooms of the Army's medical corps in central Johannesburg last Tuesday.

Sixteen people, four of them members of the South African Defence Force, were injured in the explosion.

The ANC, in a statement issued by its headquarters in Lusaka, The Zambian capital, said the attack was "part of a general escalation of the liberation war in South Africa".

It also claimed that another unit of Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), military arm of the ANC, shot and killed a black South African policeman a few days earlier in the Garankuwa township north of Pretoria.

Earlier in May, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, said the Government had information "which shows that the ANC may attack

civilians as well as officers in the police and the Defence Force".

Mr Le Grange also alleged the ANC had been behind 30 to 40 acts of sabotage since January of this year - almost as many as the number of bombings attributed to the ANC during the whole of last year.

If true, this seems surprising in view of the success South Africa has had in forcing neighbouring countries, such as Swaziland and Mozambique, to close sanctuaries previously used by ANC guerrillas.

The ANC has apparently been able to find alternative infiltration routes through Botswana which abuts parts of South Africa's nominally independent tribal homeland of Bophuthatswana. The Garankuwa township lies in Bophuthatswana.

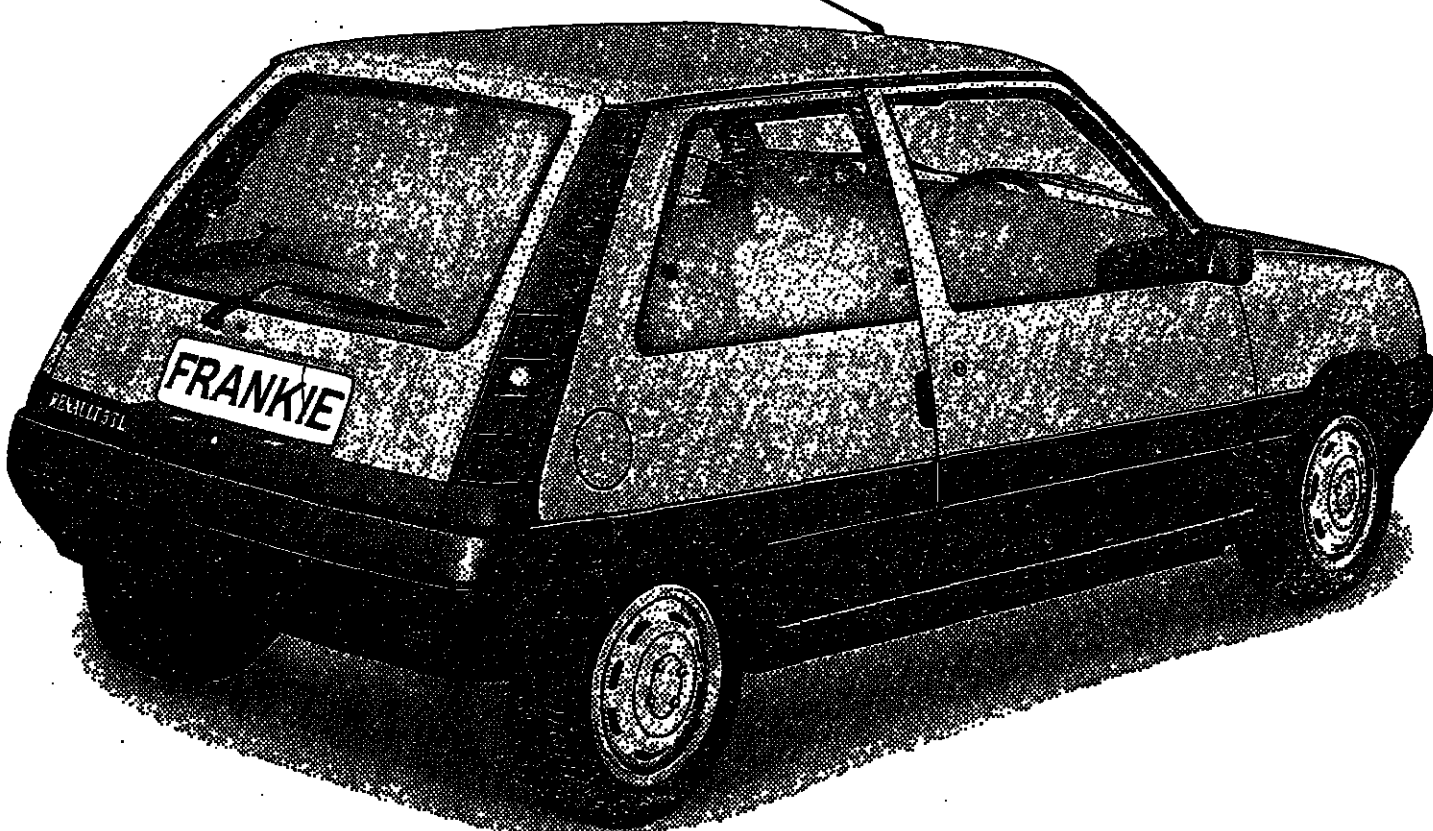
Earlier this month a black man known as Vernon Nkadi-meng, and also by the alias Roger Mevi, was killed when his car exploded in Gaborone, the Botswana capital.

Troops pledge by Castro

Havana, (Reuters) - Cuba says it would reinforce its 25,000 strong military garrison in Angola if necessary because of South Africa's refusal to grant independence to Namibia.

"Not a single Cuban soldier will be withdrawn from Angola until real steps are taken towards the independence of Namibia," President Fidel Castro said on the second day of a visit to Cuba by Senator Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General.

"Indeed, if more Cuban soldiers have to be sent, we will send more," he said.



FRANKIE GOES TO HOLYHEAD

(ON ONE TANK OF PETROL)



The remarkable Renault 5TL five-speed can reach Holyhead from anywhere in mainland U.K. on one tank of petrol. Now, you may not have urgent business in this picturesque port on the island of Anglesey but (a) we wanted a funny headline and (b) we wanted you to know that this Renault 5 is the most economical petrol-engined car in the world, returning a niggardly 68.9 mpg at a constant 56 mph.

This frugality extends across all aspects of maintenance and running costs. In common with the rest of the new

Renault 5 range, the 5TL only requires a major service every 30,000 miles. Most of the competition check-in for a fairly serious 'seeing-to' every 12,000 miles.

This efficiency is made possible across all six models in part by the new transversely-mounted engines (956, 1108 and 1397 cc).

Not only do they embody the latest technological advancements, but they're a good deal easier to work on, thus reducing service time even further.

Similarly, the all-round reformable body-protection can eliminate those costly little bumps and knocks.

These economies do not however extend to the interior: it's rather larger than you'd expect and quite the most stylish and comfortable in its class. Even the sound-system is standard. As are the adjustable three-speed ventilation system and digital clock.

Perhaps the most remarkably economical thing about the Renault 5TL is the price. The Renault 5 range starts at an extraordinary £3,845!

However, this must rise on June 1st. So you'd better start thinking of a name for yours now.



THE ALL NEW RENAULT 5.
FROM £3,845 TO £5,895.

What's yours called?



Car featured Renault 5TL (5 speed) £4,400. Prices correct at time of going to press include VAT, Car Tax, fitted radio & front seat belts. Number plates & delivery extra. *Government Test Figures: Constant 56 mph 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100 km), constant 75 mph 60.4 mpg (5.6 l/100 km), simulated urban cycle 48.7 mpg (5.8 l/100 km). Renault 5TL is speeded distance on tank of petrol based on tank capacity of 9.5 gallons (43.8 l) and Government constant 56 mph test. Figures. For a brochure write to Renault UK Ltd, PO Box 26, Southall, Middlesex UB8 3PH. Ask your dealer about Renault Care mechanical breakdown cover.

RENAULT recommend ELF lubricants.

THE ARTS: 1

Cinema

Tormented sort of reality

The Innocent (15)
Curzon Shaftesbury
Avenue

The Mean Season (15)
Leicester Square
Theatre

That's Dancing (U)
Classic Oxford Street

**A Private
Conversation (PG)**
Phoenix East Finchley

After *The Long Good Friday* and *The Honourable Consul*, John Mackenzie turns, in *The Innocent*, to the quieter life of a Depression-hit Yorkshire village in 1932. Adapted by Ray Jenkins from the novel *The Awa and the Kingfisher* by Tom Hart, the story's protagonist is a small boy whose life is tormented by epileptic fits, the village bullies and the tempestuous and adulterous carryings-on of his elders. In the way of over-sensitive youngsters in movies, the poor child is also destined to witness more fornication than outrages on most real-life infancies.

There are odd contradictions between the realistic setting (Roger Deakins's cinematography brings out all the drama of the Yorkshire Dales) and the irritatingly stylized, clipped, elliptical dialogue; between the over-emphatic neo-documentary scenes of the unemployed storming the factory gates, or

lying in dejected torpor on the hillside, and the muted, rather aimless sense of the story as a whole.

Characters and situations feel like imposed conventions rather than natural elements of the time and place. The disillusioned, intellectual, poetry-reading former officer who stirs romantic discontent in the local wives is a familiar figure of literature. The kingfisher whom the child loves to watch and whose death coincides with his emotional maturing is a heavy-handed piece of symbolism. Key brought off the bird metaphor much better.

One or two good performances provide the more credible elements of the film. The child, Andrew Hawley, has a distinctive, natural personality; Miranda Richardson's attractive, free-spirited adulteress contrasts strikingly with her performance as Ruth Ellis in *Dance With a Stranger*; and Tom Bell is toughly touching as the boy's war-gassed father.

The Mean Season is the first American picture by the young Canadian director Phillip Borsos, who made an auspicious debut with *The Grey Fox*, the story of the comeback of an elderly turn-of-the-century bank robber. His new thriller shows the same ability to capture the mood of a place: it is shot in Florida, and exploits the oppressive summer of Miami and the eerie solitude of the Everglades.

He is though rather let down by Leon Piedmont's script (from a novel by John Katzenbach), which never quite follows through its intriguing premise. The hero (the amiable Kurt Russell, who started his career as a child actor in Disney films) is an ambitious journalist

whose report on an unsolved murder so impresses the crazy killer that he starts phoning in exclusive stories on his forthcoming crimes.

The consequent stardom turns sour for the reporter as he begins to realize the extent of his own implication. At this point, however, just when the story ought to get interesting, the script runs out of logic and has recourse to red herrings, contrivances and a hurried action finale.

That's Dancing, conceived and assembled by Jack Haley Jr, is an attempt to follow up Haley's two *That's Entertainment* films, compilations from the treasures of the MGM archives. This new anthology draws on many studio and institutional archives for a very comprehensive survey of dance on film, ranging from the ebullient show dancers who cavorted for Edison's Kinetograph in the Nineties to a present-day Michael Jackson promo-video. The wheel, it seems, has gone full turn, leaving the great days behind.

There are wonderful treasures: the organic Charleston from Lubitsch's *So This Is Paris*; a fragment of Loie Fuller's Serpentine Dance; Pavlova as a gypsy in *The Dumb Girl of Portici*; Isadora Duncan glimpsed dancing in a garden; a tap routine from 1932 by the seven-year-old Sammy Davis Jr; James Cagney hoofing in *Yankee Doodle Dandy*; Jacques d'Amboise's *Carousel* waltz. The breathtakingly very different talents of Busby Berkeley and Fred Astaire represent the apogee of Hollywood Art Deco.

Surprisingly, for all its riches, *That's Dancing* is more pedantic than entertaining. Baryshnikov dissartes rather pleasantly on the balletic aspects of Hollywood dance; but the other commentators, Sammy Davis Jr, Bolger, Gene Kelly and Ray Munnell - are tediously gushing, with practically every artist and every number described as "possibly the very



Redeeming personality: Andrew Hawley with Kate Foster in *The Innocent*

best". Sad to say, too, the Golden Era of the Fifties, intended to provide the climax of the film, no longer looks so good in retrospect, with its stars already ageing and the first inspiration of the MGM musical style distinctly jaded.

Nikita Mikhalkov, whose outstanding adaptation of *Platoon*, *Unfinished Piece for Mechanical Piano*, was recently shown in London, has proved himself one of the rare masters of the chamber film, with *Five Evenings* and now *A Private Conversation*, from a play by Sofia Prokovieva (the original Russian title translates as *Without Witnesses*).

The special skill of both

writing and direction is in substantiating characters and histories that exist outside the actual scene. All that happens on screen is that a man pays a surprise visit to a woman, alone in her apartment. They talk and fight throughout an evening, revealing that they were once linked by strong emotional ties, that the woman has brought up the man's son by a dead wife, that she is now contemplating marrying his former professional rival. The atmosphere becomes more bitter as the man gets drunk and unable to conceal his resentments and jealousy.

Beyond the personal issues, we recognize more profound

symptoms of social failure and disaffection. We realize that a fundamental reason for the man's fear of his rival is guilt at having long ago denounced him politically; and we see in his resentments the belated self-understanding of a fake academic and bureaucratic time-server. In terms of spiritual frustrations in Soviet society there is more than meets the eye in this private conversation. The playing of Irina Kupchenko and Michael Ulyanov, following the twists and turns of this night's replay of the tortured years of a relationship, is faultless.

David Robinson

Concerts

Utmost refinement and sensitivity

Murray Perahia
Festival Hall

No pianist in the world, I would suggest, can boast quite the degree of control over sound that Murray Perahia has. Whenever he plays you are sure not only of the right notes, but also that you will never, but never, hear anything ugly. More than that, however much a particular piece of music might tempt lesser pianists to indulge in a spot of showing off, Perahia always directs his playing purely towards serving the composer as best he can.

Perahia began his recital, part

of the American Festival, with Bach's Fourth Partita, a work suspended in mid-air, for that instant time did not exist. If this was playing of the utmost refinement Beethoven's Sonata, Op 81a ("Les Adieux"), was that and more. As with the Bach, the reading ended with an exuberant, clean-fingered flourish, but what went before was about as convincing a depiction of the pain and longing Beethoven felt upon Archduke Rudolph's departure and absence as one could wish for. Every moment revealed another aspect of what were obviously deep and complex emotions, yet at the same time Perahia never lost sight of

feeling for, the logic of Beethoven's design. After two such masterpieces it was difficult to respond with quite the same intensity to Bartok's Suite, Op 14, for all the persuasiveness of Perahia's playing, by turns deliberately naive, violent and lyrical. But the clarity which he brought to Chopin's B minor Sonata served this rather sprawling work admirably. The cascades of notes in the last movement were marvellously clear, while his finely controlled nuances, both aural and temporal, in the Largo displayed a rare sensitivity indeed.

Stephen Pettitt

Frederica von Stade
Covent Garden

A Covent Garden Celebrity Recital, with a large part of its audience sitting on the floor and a work by Dominick Argento in the programme, was likely to be something out of the ordinary. And so it was, though not always in quite the way one expected.

Argento wrote his *Casa Guidi*, from the letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, especially for Frederica von Stade, whose Prom evening it was. He has a peculiar gift for setting prose. The ambulatory

case, the vivid colouring of harmonic and metrical underlay, and the instinctive response which his inflection draws from the singer have worked miracles on material as diverse as the notes of Audubon and the diaries of Virginia Woolf. Barrett Browning's letters from Florence to her sister have an unique difficulty: they call for a childlike, intimate fervour which even Argento's clarity of phrasing finds it hard to sustain.

Frederica von Stade clearly found it equally difficult to project without reducing its naivety to a generalized New World domestic charm. It was the more disappointing as one's

timbre and texture than was to be heard on this occasion. John Birch was the efficient organ soloist, but playing an electric machine of Wuritzer character and featureless adynce sonority that could achieve neither solemn rhetoric nor sleazy sentiment. It also wanted a greater weight of string tone than Jona Brown had at her command, in directing the performance from the first violin desk, to convey the music's fantasia-like contrasts, though Tristan Fry attacked the exclamatory timpani writing with suitably malicious relish.

A reduced body of strings, began the programme with a poised and polished account of Handel's A major Concerto Grosso, Op 6 No 11, rhythmically engaging from the staccato phrases at the outset and in the written-out fugue that serves to link this to the central andante movement. An operatic aria without words, its increasingly florid writing for the first violin becomes almost a miniature concerto, which Miss Brown sustained with appreciative style.

She also secured a well-rounded ensemble in Tcha-

kovsky's Serenade for Strings, though again with no great depth of sonority even from the fuller body of players. They avoided any tendency to linger in the Waltz movement by propelling it on a kind of skipping rhythm, and emphasized the Russian character of the *trepak* dance for the finale. Only the passionate Elegy wanted a greater intensity of feeling before the muted went on for a hushed and beautifully-phrased finish to that movement.

Noel Goodwin

ASMF/Brown
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Somebody once described Poulenc as "half monk and half urchin", and these aspects of his personality are recognizably mingled in his Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani which found a curious place in Wednesday night's concert by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, part of their Jubilee series. Curious, because the effect of this work surely depends on a different kind of

Theatre

Desolate laughter

Strippers
Phoenix

The feminists rolled up to the Phoenix on Wednesday brandishing banners denouncing "sexist" play, only to clash with a party of smartly dressed strippers holding up eloquent testimonials to the show's merits.

The feminists at least got their arithmetic right: there are five striptease routines, starting with a black leather and bullwhip number. The Soho girls are right in denying that any of this has a pornographic effect. But neither group has got the measure of this fine piece, which is best summed up by a depression veteran: "They've done nowt else but strip the North-east. Why shouldn't the girls take their clothes off?"

Shipyards and factories close, skilled men are left hanging around the house and filling the clubs where stripping booms as never before. This is Terson's starting point, and he follows it up with the story of Wendy, a former weekend beauty queen, who joins the clubland circuit when her husband swallows his pride and learns to make himself useful in the home, and by the end she is all set to pull in her £200 a week from the nightspots of Gateshead and Sunderland.

As that summary may suggest, *Strippers* is no masterpiece of plotting. You can see some events, like the husband's enraged disruption of Wendy's debut, coming from afar off. Then there is the unbelievable courtship between Buffy, a star Canadian stripper with the manners of a movie queen (Lynda Bellingham), and the

husband's laughing-boy caddy Dougie (Rod Culbertson) who embodies everything that Buffy (and the author) find most repulsive in the Geordie male animal.

Long-range plotting, however, matters little in comparison with Terson's capacity to translate desolate social reality into a great laugh without betraying or falsifying it. Also, as always, he excels in his grasp of character and shaping individual scenes.

There are Wendy's training sessions, which supply brilliantly funny testimony to the girls' pleasure in exercising power over the despised punters. There is the career of Michelle (Jackie Lye), a dedicated newcomer of prodigious inventiveness and zero sexuality who makes over more frantic appearances as a flag-waving sailor boy, a peeling tiger, and finally in partnership with a live python.

There is also Bill Maynard's performance of the old agent, harassed in his office ("my hair's on too tight") and firing off blue material for the boys until his toupee falls off: not since Archie Rice has there been such a portrait of the underside of show business. You may get the uneasy feeling that Terson is steering towards an entirely unjustifiable happy ending. Then comes the tableau of Wendy's first successful performance. As Judi Lamb plays it, it is the one erotic episode in John Blackmore's production. But when she calls for her husband there is no answer. As in the past with this author, a warm hand-clasp changes to a blow in the face.

Irving Wardle

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THE ARTS: 2

Television Agreeable mists

The narrator of *Summer Lightning* (Channel 4) comes to the conclusion that "only the past is fully alive", and as a result this production begins with some scattered but mysterious images. Loosely based on Turgenev's *First Love*, the film (only previously seen on RTE) was set in the Ireland of the 1840s. It was conceived as an appropriately leisurely pace, despite any number of disasters crowding in at the end, but the point of the transposition must have been to lend the narrative both a more evocative quality and a more evocative quality. There is nothing like an Irish landscape to cloak everything in an agreeable mist.

In *Summer Lightning* did not bear the marks of its literary origin too obviously, even though there were times when the propensity for significant moments and "set scenes" made it more wooden than it need have been. (And this particular problem was compounded by the fact that films made for television seem curious hybrids.) But the story was of such interest, and the

cast of such distinction, that the local difficulties were largely overcome; even that generally studied air, always noticeable in adaptations, was acceptable.

The writer and director, Paul Joyce (who in both roles did an excellent job), said that he wanted to take the original story and treat it in a "post-Freudian way": it is difficult to know what this means, especially since psychology seemed on most occasions to be displaced by characters of a conventionally literary kind, but it might have been aimed at the father-and-son relationship which was very well conceived here.

The moonstruck boy was, in particular, excellently played by Edward Rawlin-Hicks - although, in the generally lyrical or distressing circumstances of the plot, the comedy of Maureen Téal as Madame St Leger (drunk) and of other actors as assorted servants (ditto) came as a relief. The portentiousness has already been forgiven.

Peter Ackroyd

First in an occasional series on leisure: Amanda Craig spends a day at the races



Where the nobs outnumber the yobs: Royal Ascot's annual true blue extravaganza

It's hats off to Ascot

This coming month the two greatest events in the English horse-racing social calendar take place - the Epsom Derby and Royal Ascot races. Both are hugely exciting, extraordinarily characteristic of England and neither is to be missed. Indeed T.S. Eliot once wrote that the Derby (along with Wensleydale cheese) was one of the reasons he emigrated here from America.

For racing is the sport of kings and king of sports. No other can touch it for tension, entertainment and beauty; for the unique and peculiar mingling of every social class and, in the case of Ascot, for the tradition that has made it the only single gathering in the social calendar where there are still more nobs than yobs.

As a spectacle, however, the Derby is the livelier and the more dangerous for the one-and-a-half-mile course is full of twists and gradients that can baffle a jockey and bring a thoroughbred crashing down. Indeed, looking at the Epsom course you begin to understand why Lester Piggott is such a hero for having won nine Derbys.

The first Derby was run in 1780. Ever since it has become a national outing, attended by kings and cockneys, charabancs and charlatans, fortune-tellers and free-lancers, all of whom are drawn to Epsom Downs like pins to a magnet. The reason for this remarkable social mix is that although the Member's Enclosure is just as elegant and expensive (£54.50) as that at Ascot, access to the Downs in the centre of the course is free.

More, becoming a Member has none of the complications you meet at Ascot. You can become a Member on the day of the race (June 5 this year) and bring two guests in with you for £30 each, provided you are wearing morning dress (if male) and a hat (if female). Other guests are fairly inexpensive, too. The 'Angels' costs £26, the Grandstand £10, the Paddock and Lonsdale Enclosure both £6.

The food is just as good as at Ascot - restaurant-goers and smoked salmon sandwich eaters try to avoid the smells from the hot-dog stalls on the Downs where a quarter of a million crowd is squeezed - and the enthusiasts are sometimes more aristocratic than those at the other place.

Possibly because of its accessibility to people from all walks of life the Derby is also more of a connoisseur's race than any of Ascot's and attended by people

more concerned with form than fashion. Ascot, however, is the real true blue of racing. Since its foundation in 1711 by Queen Anne, it has become the hallmark of sporting elegance and extravagance. Few who have been to Ascot races would agree with author George Gissing's opinion that "horse-racing is carried on mainly for the delight of fools, ruffians and thieves" - at least not within earshot of the Royal Enclosure.

Those whose experience of watching Royal Ascot's great races is confined to television and the odd Ladbrooke flutter

have been deprived of something as addictive and agreeable as champagne. Even if it nearly always rains, and you seldom win, there is a magic about being part of the great crowd cheering lonely, courageous men on top of the most magnificent creatures in creation, thundering past in a flash of effort and colour. Whether you are essentially a serious-minded or light-hearted racegoer it is, as writer and racing aficionado Jeffrey Bernard says, the best fun you can have with your clothes on.

So how and when to attend racing's premier occasion? The procedure for

getting into Ascot's Royal Enclosure is almost as complicated as applying for Social Security. One must have applied in January, giving full name, date of birth (if under 26) and have the form signed by a sponsor who has been granted Royal Enclosure entry vouchers for more than eight years.

Divorcees are no longer looked on with a basilisk stare, as they once were, but those with a prison record get short shrift. As the latter group includes a number of turf devotees, friendship with a racehorse owner can work wonders.

Having obtained your entry vouchers, the next thing to worry about is The Hat. For men this is merely a matter of wearing morning dress. For women it is a pleasurable nightmare. From May to June a steady stream of female feet flow through the portals of milliners David Shilling's and Freddie Fox's London shops. At home there are endless matrimonial spat about hats before the final selection, usually an enormous straw cartwheel beneath which the wearer wilts.

There is the question, one official told me solemnly, "of when is a hat not a hat?" Mrs Gertrude Shilling, mother of David, annually pushes the bim end of the wedge further out than most mortals dare by wearing the most trivial of her son's creations.

Anyone considered improperly dressed is, as the lady in the Royal Ascot office at St. James's Palace put it, "liable to be removed".

At the gates, complete with The Hat and entry voucher, you exchange the latter for a badge. A four-day badge (this year's meeting begins on June 18) costs £53; one for a single day £22. The smartest and most popular day is Thursday, Gold Cup and Ladies Day. The Royal Enclosure, thankfully, has standing room for 8,000 people.

Huge quantities of fine food and drink are consumed in the luncheon rooms. An average Ascot week sees 6,000lbs of the best Scots smoked salmon, 10,000 gulls eggs, 2,400 lobsters, 7,500lbs strawberries, 500 gallons of double cream and 10,000 bottles of champagne dispensed by some 2,000 catering staff. Those unable to face queues bring a Fortnum's hamper, costing £39 for two and boasting such delicacies as roast pousin and chocolate trifles with which to seek consolation when the selection carry over the cash comes home with the also-rans.

That lived-in look

FIRST PERSON

Vivien Tomlinson

A friend of mine had the ultimate in embarrassing experiences the other morning. Returning from a short bike ride in the country she walked in through her unlocked kitchen door to find her Great Dane shaking paws with two burly policemen. "Madam", the larger officer told her. "We have reason to believe your premises have been broken into and ransacked." Not the kind of girl to panic, my friend took the news stoically and set about accompanying the policemen on a room-by-room check.

The sitting room had cushions all over the floor, newspapers stuffed into armchairs, coffee mugs jumbled on the hearth. The curtains were half-drawn. "Actually, that's how I left this room", said my friend.

One policeman made a note on his pad, then accompanied her upstairs. Over the Lego pieces they trod, past the Dinky cars and left-tip pens, into the first bedroom. Bush-bed duvets were heaped by the door. Curtains were snatched back on only one window. Drawers were open one was upside down on the floor. Half a marmalade sandwich lay by the toothbrush on the washbasin. The hot tap was running very gently past a pink sock. "Oh, good. That room's all right, too", announced my friend turning off the tap. The notetaker raised his eyebrows very slightly in the direction of his colleague. They moved on.

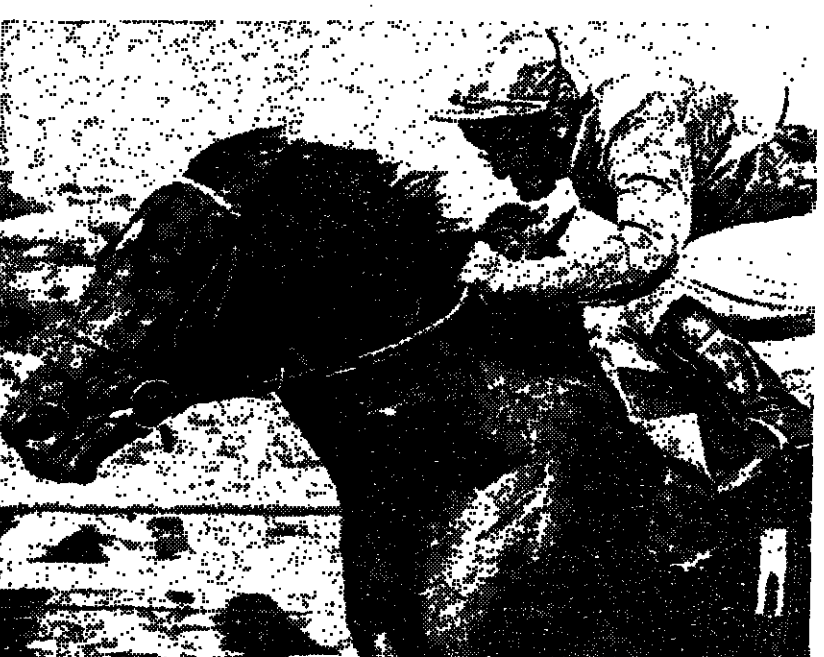
The next bedroom revealed a passably-made bed. Books stood in a line on the top of the chest of drawers. The chest of drawers was closed. "My son's bedroom", explained my friend. "Yes, we didn't think they'd touched that one", commented the notetaker. "But I'm afraid you'd better brace yourself for the main bedroom. Been gone through with a fine toothcomb, it has."

He was right. Gone through with a fine toothcomb it most certainly had been. The mattress was at an angle on the bedbase. Underwear, tights and bras cascaded from various open drawers. Curtains were drawn tight. "I couldn't find my cheque book", explained my friend. "I was in the middle of stripping the beds for washday, and then I thought I'd get a fruit cake in the oven first. I'd run out of eggs."

With a stern warning not to leave her house unlocked ever again the policemen stepped over the sleeping dog and left.

I thought of my friend this week when a public-spirited neighbour of ours organized the village's first Crimewatch meeting in his house. The local vicar volunteered to be co-ordinator. We were issued with forms to fill in should we see something unusual.

I can see the first entry for the vicar any day now. "Female. Shabbily dressed and flustered. Five-foot-six, fortyish, medium build. Riding getaway bike with nightie dangling below machintosh." Catching the early morning post? A likely story.



Centuries of thoroughbreds

Racing is one of the oldest recorded sports. It makes its first literary appearance in Homer's *Iliad* but according to tablets discovered in Asia Minor, one Assyrian king kept stables for chariot-racing as far back as 1500 BC. It attracted its critics from an early age. The satirist Juvenal used racing as an example of the vanity of human wishes in his famous gripe about "banquet at circuses" (bread and the big match) being all the Roman populace cared for. In 1290 an Arabian filly was

sold for the equivalent of £94,080, but the question of pedigree did not become important until the publication of the General Stud Book by a man called Weatherly in 1791, 77 years after Ascot began. According to this, every thoroughbred can be traced back to three stallions - the Byerly Turk, the Darley Arabian and the Godolphin Barb - and 43 royal English sires. Those wanting to discover more about the subject should visit the Horseman's Bookshop at 1, Lower Grosvenor Place, SW1.

Peter Weir's Witness is an excellent movie. John Johnstone SUNDAY TIMES

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The Pill: Advice on the 14-day rule

Women taking the combined oral contraceptive pill may be courting disaster if they follow the advice about "missed pills" which is contained in many pill manufacturers' leaflets. Some manufacturers still recommend that a woman who forgets to take one of her pills should use alternative contraception for the remainder of her pill packet and until her next period begins. But a growing body of evidence suggests that this advice is now out of date.

Pill experts now consider that a woman who forgets a pill can only protect herself against a possible pregnancy if she uses alternative contraception for a full 14 days after the missed pill - even if this means using other methods throughout the next period and into the next packet of pills.

The most vociferous of this "14-day rule" is Dr John Guilleband, director of the world-famous family planning clinic, the Margaret Pike Centre, in London.

Studies of hormone levels in pill takers led Dr Guilleband to conclude some years ago that some women's ovaries can rapidly ripen to the point of egg release during the routine seven pill-free days when a woman on the pill has her period.

Although ovulation is very unlikely if the woman sticks rigidly to her schedule, a missed pill on either side of the pill-free week could tip the balance.

A pill missed on days 18-21 of a packet, for example, would lengthen the time the ovary spends unsuppressed and increase the chances of ovulation. The woman could then become pregnant during the pill-free

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Cautious welcome for the sponge

The latest contraceptive, the Today sponge, is now available in chemists. Just four weeks since its retail launch, it's too early to say how well it is selling but already some outlets are re-ordering from the sponge's distributors.

Across the Atlantic the sponge, which is impregnated with spermicide, has already proved immensely popular. Thirty-four million sponges have been sold and an estimated one million American women have used it.

The sponge, which fits inside the vagina and can provide contraceptive cover for 24 hours without additional spermicide, is said to be comfortable and easy to use; 2,000 women who took part in a worldwide trial found that it was 89 to 91 per cent effective.

British family planning doctors remain cautious about its use, however. They acknowledge that it is a lot safer than no contraception at all and could be useful if alternatives are not available. And they say it could provide effective cover for women who are spacing their pregnancies and do not mind if they get pregnant or older women who are less fertile. But they insist that the sponge is not

as effective as the pill, sheath or cap and they are reluctant to see it used as an alternative to these by women who want to avoid pregnancy.

An effectiveness rating of 90 per cent still means that for every 10 women relying on the sponge as contraceptive protection for a year one will get pregnant, they point out. Used incorrectly the sponge has a higher failure rate, they say. The recommended retail price for a pack of three sponges is £2.99. The sponges are also available through family planning clinics.

Relief on infant fever fits

Every year thousands of parents are shocked to see their baby have a fit. Febrile fits - fits linked to fevers - are common. But two questions immediately spring to mind - will it happen again and will our baby be permanently harmed as a result?

Until recently there were no clear answers but the results of a major survey published recently in the *British Medical Journal* shows that parents have little to fear.

Of 13,000 children monitored by the Child Health and Education Survey, 300 have had childhood febrile fits.

The results show that just over a third of children who have a fit are likely to have further fits and that the chances of this happening are increased if febrile fits or epilepsy runs in the family.

But there was no evidence that sufferers were likely to be adversely affected by the convulsions.

Patients strike over care defects

A dozen patients have successfully called the bluff of the director of the clinic where they are given kidney dialysis - by going on strike. The clinic, near Paris, cares for more than 80 patients with kidney problems. Serious differences between the director of the clinic and the head of the dialysis unit led to a noticeable drop in the quality of care; the machines were out of date and the director refused to supply demineralized water.

Despite angry complaints from the patients the director only tinkered with the problems. The patients decided to retaliate and formed a pressure group. Within 24 hours the director responded. He installed six new machines and changed the water.

The strike, reported in a recent issue of *Social Science and Medicine*, reverberated around France. Many other dialysis centres started to improve the quality of their own services to pre-empt further patient strikes.

Whether this tactic could be used to improve the facilities in the UK is doubtful. The quality of equipment is not at issue here: the problems are more subtle and insidious.

At the moment 33 new patients per million population receive treatment each year and a further 25 to 30 could benefit if they were given the chance.

Patients are told that they are not suitable for treatment on medical grounds, but often that is an excuse to disguise the lack of resources.

But the lack is not one of machine or beds but a shortage of staff. Some units are open only a few days a week and

Occupational hazards

Different jobs and occupations carry different hazards but none so strange as the tale of the glove maker of Somerset.

A woman who made leather gloves at home suffered from an overactive thyroid gland. She had been treated for the problem with radio-iodine but, like 40 to 90 per cent of patients given this therapy, the level of the thyroid hormone circulating in her blood then dropped below normal.

The effect of this swing was extraordinary. She changed from a rational person into a confused one and was admitted to hospital with a severe stomach ache. When her guts were examined the large bowel was found to have perforated and a peculiar yellow, worm-like mass was sticking out.

This mass turned out to be 800 elastic bands which had jammed in her colon. They were used to keep the glove leather bundles together.

She had no recollection of swallowing the bands but according to her surgeon, Mr David Griffiths, she claimed that her nephew had been putting them in her tea.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

THE TIMES DIARY

Crumb of discomfort

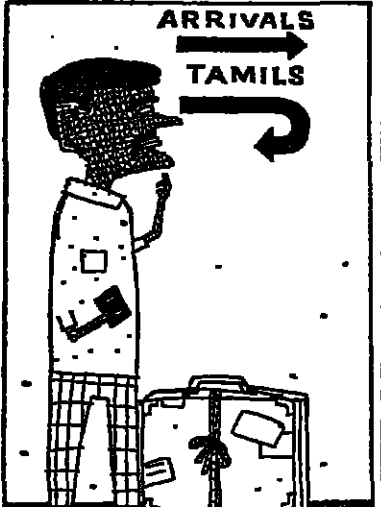
A health scare erupted at the BBC yesterday after it was disclosed that its hospital suite in Lime Grove may have been briefly contaminated with dioxin - "the deadliest synthetic substance known to man". It is feared there is a risk the dioxin was spilled in the suite after the filming of last week's *Newsnight* programme by an enraged guest, Malcolm Lee, managing director of Re-Chem International, the controversial Southampton-based incineration firm. On the programme, Lee was confronted with a sample of partially burned polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a source of the deadly dioxin. The sample was found by *Newsnight* in a tip used by Re-Chem in Wales, and was recovered by an analyst in a protective moon suit. Analysts found the sample contained 500 times the Government's "safe" level of PCB. After the interview in which Lee had denied the sample could have come from his plant, he took the contaminated sample, unwrapped it with his bare hands, and it flaked in front of the *Newsnight* team.

Yesterday Lee conceded the atmosphere had been heated: "Two or three little crumbs - I doubt if they could be weighed - fell on to the desk. Elizabeth Clough, the producer, went bonkers shouting, 'What about the cleaners?' Lee then swept up the crumbs: 'We're talking about such tiny amounts there's no problem at all. I don't have a death wish, I can assure you.'"

Lashing out

Just two weeks after the Rev Peter Cornwall caused a furore and quit the University Church in Oxford to become a Catholic, I hear more ructions among the clergies. Cambridge University's professor of divinity, Nicholas Lash, has resigned his fellowship of the Catholic college, St Edmund's House, for reasons no one is prepared to discuss. Yesterday, the St Edmund's vice-master, Dr Geoffrey Crook, confirmed Lash's resignation but the dean, Fr Michael Winter, refused to comment. "You have to be diplomatic about these things; my lips are sealed," Lash is out of the count. Meanwhile the present master, Fr Coventry, was not available for comment: the telephoneist said "his bicycle isn't in the bikeshed".

BARRY FANTONI



What's left?

A bemused reader in the current *New Socialist* writes for guidance after an article referring to 11 varieties of "leftism": the left, the Labour left, the new left, (also apparently known as the new municipal left), the new Labour left, the Bernstein left, the hard left, the NEC left, the soft left, and, finally, the organised left. Right?

● Maps of British Rail's Coast and Seaside Railtour service depict bargain trips to Peak District beauty spots such as Eilat, Grindale, Matlock and Brixton. They're getting where?

Quite

Alexander Haig, inventor of "duplicitous bastard", "careful caution" and "sweetest my response" is in top incompressible form describing the Grenada crisis in *Thatcher Phenomenon*, being broadcast by Radio Four on Sunday. He says: "The Prime Minister was facing a meeting in which she could have walked into an extremely hostile and counter-productive venue. She was surprised late at night to be put on notice. She had enough spirit in her marrow to respond less than favourably and it may have affected what might have been a more favourable demeanour in her heart."

Fortitude

The working man's answer to Lord Althorp's party of the year will soon be here. Ken Livingstone is celebrating his 40th birthday on June 15 and a copy of an invitation has just landed on my desk. It bears a photograph of an offensively ugly baby - Livingstone, I presume. The venue is not the Mithell but Room 115 at County Hall. "Bottle compulsory, partner optional", says Ken who, I suspect, is in for a good deal of leg-pulling after his interview in the latest *Cosmopolitan*. In it, he reveals he did the magazine's quiz, "How Good a Lover Are You?", but found it too easy. The man who claims we are all bi-sexual then boasts that as a science teacher to remedial classes, he brought sex into the beginning of every lesson to catch his pupils' interest. Perhaps he will have to do the same when (and if) he gets to the Commons.

PHS

Soccer rampage: Liverpool and Turin on the morning after

Keeping shame at a distance

Liverpool The young blonde girl was in a small knot of people waiting anxiously alongside platform nine at Liverpool's Lime Street station as the first of the football specials pulled in yesterday morning from Brussels was hoping to catch sight of a brother who had been at the match and of whom there was now no trace.

The supporters, many of them draped in the black and white colours of Juventus, trooped past in almost total silence, subdued and disbelieving of the event they had experienced just a few hours previously. "It's just like a funeral, isn't it?" the girl said quietly to a friend who was keeping vigil with her.

The dead in the Heysel Stadium may have been mainly Italian, French and Belgian but the wall which crushed them after Liverpool fans went on the rampage also brought the good reputation that Manchester supporters had enjoyed for so long. It must also have sounded a death knell for British teams in international football competitions.

The madness on the terraces, "the British Disease" as our fearful European neighbours have long labelled such hooliganism, was seen live by millions of television viewers in 80 countries around the world. Which nation now will take the risk of allowing such "supporters" across its frontiers even if the football authorities do not act as expected and simply impose a blanket ban on our clubs?

A little more than two weeks after the televised horror of the burning grandstand at Bradford, which claimed 53 lives, and the death of a 15-year-old boy beneath a collapsing wall during fan disorder on the same day at Birmingham, events at the European Cup final were the climax of the blackest of seasons.

It is ironic that the most shameful of nights for British football should involve Liverpool, the club acknowledged as an ambassador of this country's sporting achievements. Throughout the 22-year history of European tournaments their fans had largely been well behaved and of little trouble to foreign police forces.

In 1977 I travelled by train with hundreds of fans from Liverpool for the European Cup final in Rome against the German champions,

Borussia Moenchengladbach. Despite the ample consumption of wine and beer during a long, hot Italian day before kick-off there were only few arrests and much praise of the fans for their good humour.

In a city blighted by appallingly high levels of unemployment, reaching 70 per cent among the young, the success of sporting heroes has been an important part of otherwise aimless lives.

Both Liverpool and Everton draw much of their support from the most deprived areas of the city and no one doubts that many of the fans

finance their travel costs by dubious means. The support is intense and loyalty fiercely held but generally little violence has been associated with their fans. As they arrived home yesterday, trailing their banners and flags through the city streets, there was a real feeling of shame and disbelief. There was no chanting, no shouting, no singing. Shoppers in the city centre, who would normally join in the banter, gave the fans a wide berth as though to avoid contagion.

At St Luke's Church near the Everton ground, itself only half a

mile across Stanley Park from Liverpool's, a memorial service yesterday for Harry Catterick, the former Everton manager, was overshadowed by the events at Brussels.

Liverpool has always had an undercurrent of violence. The 1981 Toxteth riots were the most vicious outbreak of street disorder that Britain had witnessed, but sport has not been involved. But in the Heysel Stadium, even before the violence erupted, there were signs of the sick and twisted: banners deciding the Munich air crash and lampooning the marital problems of a rival soccer manager were draped over the perimeter wall.

Many of the returning fans accept that some of their number were to blame but there were counter accusations of poor policing, inadequate segregation, drunkenness and intimidation by Italian fans.

The central question therefore is why fans who had previously enjoyed such a good reputation should be responsible for such an appalling loss of life. John Smith, Liverpool's chairman and the new chairman of the Sports Council, suggested that National Front members, identified on England's tour of South America last year, had been among the troublemakers.

It is not just football that has suffered. The reputation of Britain itself has taken another damaging blow. Outside the British embassy on Rome's Via XX Settembre armed guards were posted to prevent reprisal attacks. The government sent messages of sympathy and apology to the Italian and Belgian authorities.

On Wednesday next week Mr Justice Popplewell convenes his public inquiry into the Bradford fire and the Birmingham death. His findings and recommendations on methods of improving ground safety and combating hooliganism will now be more eagerly awaited.

At yesterday's service at St Luke's the Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Rev David Sheppard, led the congregation in "prayers for peace on the terraces and an end to bloodshed". The government, the police and the football authorities all know that it will take more than prayers to repair the damage of one awful night in Brussels.

Peter Davenport
Northern Correspondent



Victory throng, then the silence of despair

Turin At 8pm on Wednesday Turin, the capital of Italy's motor industry, seemed a ghost town. The streets were empty while big, quiet crowds were crisscrossing small piazzas where enterprising promoters had set up giant screens for the live relay from Brussels. As they showed the first scenes of horror and news of the casualties began to come in, there was a feeling of bewilderment that such things could happen.

Almost instantly, the switchboard of La Stampa, the city's main newspaper, was flooded by anxious calls, most of them relatives of the 7,000 Juventus fans who had gone to Brussels for the game. "Is it true?" they kept asking. "This is not sport, it is slaughter. Liverpool must be disqualified."

But what had happened on the terraces made little impression on many of the fans at home. When the referee whistled Liverpool's defeat, about 10,000 chanting youngsters, hunking on horns and waving the black-and-white striped colours of Juventus, flooded Piazza San Carlo.

Turin's historic square. The city's socialist mayor, commented: "I cannot but condemn such rejoicing while so many families and friends are among the dead."

One group of fans planned to march on a beer festival where they hoped to exact retribution on English visitors. Police got wind of it and blocked the road.

At the Juventus headquarters in Via Boglietti officials worked through the night updating the casualty list and organizing an air lift back to Italy. "We have hundreds of small fan associations throughout the country and all over the world," one said. "They are all known for their fair play and sportsmanship. Obviously every good family has a black sheep. We have nothing in common with any Juventus hooligans who went to Brussels with the aim of fighting with the Liverpool animals."

At dawn several charter planes landed at Turin's Caselle airport unloading the terrified fans. "The English acted like beasts," said Luciano Sandri, a clerk. "They charged us with

knives and sticks as though they were urban guerrillas. It would have been better to lose the game than to win it in conditions like this."

Andrea Galesso, a city councillor, told reporters that "hundreds of Liverpool supporters arrived semi-naked in the stadium, half drunk, and went on the rampage for hours without anybody able to stop them, least of all the Belgian gendarmes". Another city councillor, Ciro Albanese, said it was criminal to neglect elementary security measures at such a match. He would never go to another football match again.

Yesterday Turin sank into a mood of despair. There were no more parades, only national flags flying at half mast. Nearly all Juventus banners had disappeared from windows and balconies. Someone had scribbled on the wall of the railway station: "Shame on everybody".

Piero de Garzarolli
The author is on the editorial staff of La Stampa.

Edward Mortimer adds another irony to Lebanon's already long list

Success for Israel, but only at a price

The left, under the Druze leader Kamal Jumblatt, went further than this and sought to use the PLO's military strength to shift the Lebanese internal balance of power in their favour - but this was firmly repressed by Syria in 1976. The Shia Muslims, historic underdogs, advanced more discreetly.

The Israelis gave help and encouragement to the Christians, getting gradually less discreet as time went on and frequently renegeing the "Christian" West for failing to look after its own. But they also knew that the majority population in south Lebanon - the area of most direct interest to them and to the PLO - was not Christian but Shia, and that these people suffered more than Christians from both PLO depredations and Israeli reprisals.

It was disappointing for Israel that, throughout the 1970s, the Shia leadership in Lebanon always sided publicly with the PLO and vigorously condemned Israeli incursions. But "on the ground" the Israelis found Shia villagers were often quite cooperative, and at one time they were said to make up 80 per cent of the late Major Haddad's Israeli-backed militia. In 1982, when Israel invaded, many Shia Muslims really did welcome its troops with showers of rice and rose-water.

Israel's war in Lebanon was not against the Lebanese: they just had the misfortune to be in the way. It was against the PLO. General Ariel Sharon and his chief-of-staff Rafael Eitan had convinced Begin that it should be dealt with directly.

In that sense the war was indeed a failure, for the trauma of being battered out of Lebanon by the Shia resistance is much greater than that of the surprise attack of Yom Kippur, which Israel did, after all, fight off. But if the aim was to destroy the PLO, and above all to make Lebanon stamp out any independent Palestinian entity, it has succeeded brilliantly.

The Shia Muslims in Beirut today are doing exactly what Israel has always wanted them to do; and the fact that meanwhile they are allowing Israel to complete her withdrawal from the south under cover of a de facto truce shows clearly where their priorities lie.

One is driven to wonder whether the war between the Israelis and the Shia Muslims in south Lebanon was not all a tragic misunderstanding. Would not Israel have withdrawn anyway, even without the Shia resistance? It is by no means sure. Even if Israel had no settled intention to hold Lebanon at the beginning, the decision to withdraw was politically very difficult, given that Syria would not allow Israel to receive any formal reward for its invasion. The pain and horror of the

resistance was probably necessary to overcome political and military objections which might otherwise have seemed insuperable, and even now a further bout of pain and horror may be needed to persuade Israel's leaders to abandon the hopeless half-measure of the "security zone".

Alternatively, could not Israel have spared herself that pain by withdrawing more quickly and completely, conditional only on the tacit understanding that the PLO would not come back? It may well be that Syria and the Shia Muslims both needed the military triumph of the resistance, to give them the requisite Arab legitimacy for what they are now doing in Beirut.

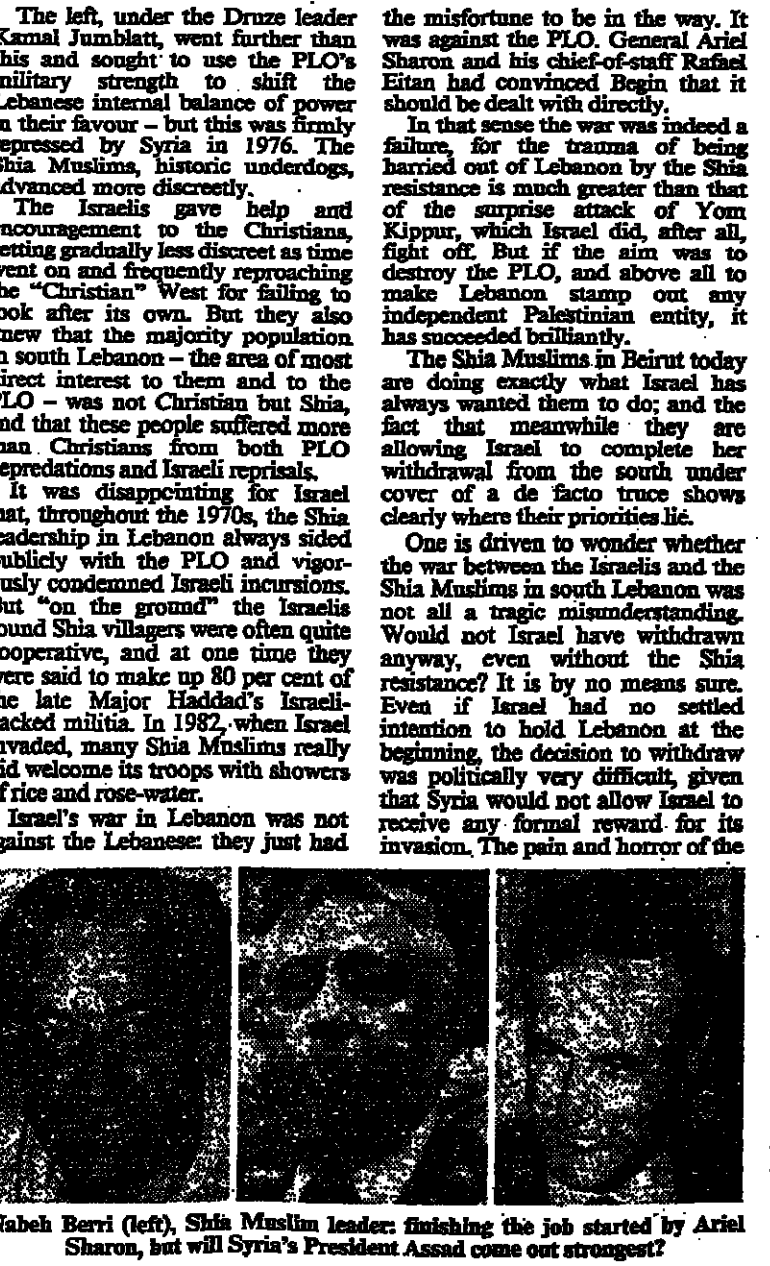
Israel has succeeded in destroying the PLO, or at least the PLO as we knew it before 1982. Yasser Arafat is, as Podhoretz puts it, "still around", but his importance is much diminished because he can no longer insist on being recognized, either by Palestinians or Arab governments, as the only legitimate Palestinian leader.

At most he can give or withhold a green light to others to participate in negotiations with Israel. That he himself or the PLO should participate directly, in their own right, is now apparently out of the question.

This is the consequence which Sharon, Begin, Eitan, and for that matter Podhoretz, wanted, and they have got it. Whether they were right to want it is another matter. For even if Arafat gives the green light he can now no longer deliver a Palestinian or Arab consensus. Most now see their future as a choice between cringing capitulation to the US on one side and uncompromising hostility to Israel on the other. You can be Sadat, or you can be Khameini.

You can also be Assad. For ironically - to add one more to Podhoretz's list of ironies - Israel's "victory" in Lebanon is also Syria's. Syria may be strong enough to prevent Hussein and Arafat from agreeing to any negotiating framework acceptable to the US and Israel. She is very probably strong enough to prevent any actual agreement from being reached, and quite certainly strong enough to prevent it from bringing full peace to the area. Her strength is a far more serious military threat to Israel than the PLO ever was.

Even if Podhoretz were right, and the destruction of the PLO was on balance desirable, could it possibly be worth the terrible price that Palestinians, Lebanese and Israelis have had to pay for it, and are still paying even now?



Nabeh Berri (left), Shia Muslim leader, finishing the job started by Ariel Sharon, but will Syria's President Assad come out strongest?

David Watt

Learning from the Victorians

My first reaction to Sir Keith Joseph's green paper, with its bleak accountant's view of higher education as a kind of service industry which needs to pull its socks up and pay its way, was to dive for the bookshelf and re-read the classic case for the liberal education: John Henry Newman's lectures in Dublin in 1852 on "the idea of a university".

Newman regarded a liberal university education as "the process of training by which the intellect, instead of being formed or satisfied to some particular or accidental purpose, some specific trade or profession or study or science, is disciplined for its own sake, for the perception of its own proper object and for its own highest culture". The object should be to cultivate "the force, steadiness, the comprehensiveness and versatility of the intellect, the command over our own powers, the instinctive just estimate of things as they pass before us... the idea of scientific method, order, principle and system, of rule and exception, of richness and harmony".

This passage is worth reproducing because it reflects ideals that were commonly accepted by very practical people at the height of Britain's industrial success. Newman sums up the underlying assumptions of more than a hundred subsequent years of British education and because it indicates precisely what is lacking in the Thatcher government's approach to this subject.

It is unfair, no doubt, to expect Sir Keith Joseph to write like Newman. It is also true that the green paper covers its flank by disclaiming, in a couple of grudging sentences, any desire to set a low value on the general cultural benefits of education and research. But it provides no vision of what the value of higher education actually is.

The tone of the green paper is uniformly grey, narrow, nagging and bureaucratic. If we take it together with other pronouncements we are confronted with the picture of a government which is not just downgrading the intangible benefits envisaged by Newman, but is turning its back on them in a fit of anti-intellectual revulsion.

The underlying assumptions of the green paper seem to be that British universities are unacceptably "non-cost effective" because their research has not been as "profitable" as it should be. Furthermore they actually bear a serious responsibility for the bad performance of the British economy since the war because they have been too smug about business and money and have not turned out enough useful, dynamic graduates. This, in turn, is mainly because they have been too "academic" - that is, they have thought too much about training minds and not enough about fostering entrepreneurial or cashable skills such as engineering and computer science.

The conclusion is that the weight of limited government money will in future be thrown behind research shown to be "productive" and departments shown to be "useful". This will enable us to cut back expenditure with some semblance of respectability, as well as rooting out the ivory tower elitism that has brought Britain to its knees.

The charge of anti-business snobbery in the universities, as elsewhere in our society, has had a large grain of truth in the past, although (through the simple working of the labour market) much less today. But where is the Government's justification for burning down the house in order to cure a little rising damp?

Almost nothing is right about the argument, either in theory or practice. The Government assumes that there would have been better economic performance if we had produced a higher proportion of scientists. It produces no comparisons, however, to disprove the argument of many experts that the proportions in this country have been very little different from, say, Germany or America. How does it know that in the 1990s the kind of skills required will not be the "generalist" ability to think quickly and independently (which already causes industry to favour Oxbridge graduates) rather than specific scientific knowledge?

Again, how can British universities hope to attract first-class teachers, far less prevent an appalling long-term brain drain, if no money is provided for research that cannot prove its worth within three years? If all the best graduates take to entrepreneurial occupations who is going to teach in the secondary schools, particularly if the teachers are to be held down in the hierarchy of society by the Government's public sector pay policy?

There are two common answers to all these questions. One is that any government particularly one trying to think in utilitarian terms - ought to try to cover as many bets about the future as possible. Instead of rationalizing its failures by ideologically motivated guesswork and even more dubious statistics, it should spend far more on every level and type of education. Some waste is a price worth paying to secure and improve our most important national resource.

The other answer is that nothing in this field can be done without the co-operation of intellectuals: the government may dislike or despise them but it cannot hope to educate if it makes no effort to understand and compromise with them. The fact that their priorities include a love of truth for its own sake and a belief that it is, in Enoch Powell's word, "barbarism" to attempt to evaluate higher education in terms of economic performance, is not feared by the government.

Mrs Thatcher has been heard to remark that she finds scientists who do research "so boring", that is her privilege. But her political instincts ought to warn her that an important part of her middle-class Conservative constituency still has the sense to agree, in its heart, with Newman's tremendous peroration: "A university training aims at raising the intellectual tone of society, at cultivating the public mind, at purifying national taste, at supplying true principles to popular enthusiasm and fixed aims to popular aspirations, at giving enlargement and sobriety to the ideas of the age, at facilitating the exercise of political power and refining the intercourse of private life."

Trevor Fishlock

Taking Mickey - to court

New York This week President Reagan went down to Disney World in Florida and shook hands with Mickey Mouse. Mickey Mouse gave him a kiss. One newspaper published a photograph, and a headline saying "Mickey and Minnie greet Big Cheese."

It was an altogether different Mickey Mouse story last week. After an extraordinary incident at Disney World, papers ran the headline "Boy, 6, mugged by Mickey Mouse." Bizarre as it seems, it is true. It is always something amazing or almost incredible happening in America. The *New York Times* recently published an article entitled "Blind man convicted of drunken driving" but then with a newspaper editor of unimagined surprise, the eyebrow arched at the report of a thorough Mickey Mouse.

M. Mouse, it seems, was doing his job, wagging his big ears, posing for photographs and being otherwise amiable, in keeping with the gentle atmosphere at Disney World, where nothing distressing, smelly, or in any way offensive ever happens.

Without warning, Boy, 6, tweaked his tail to attract his attention. Well, even Mickey Mouse can have a bad day, and for some reason his agreeable disposition crumpled. Instead of wagging his finger and gently admonishing with a "Hey there, it's fallin', don't pull old Mickey's tail now", he wheeled around and picked up Boy, 6, and threw him at a wall. The lad was undoubtedly surprised but not badly hurt. He was, nonetheless, mugged.

Whatever one's views about the brainlessness of many American children, and the manner in which they tyrannize their parents, everyone agrees that boy-throwing is generally to be frowned upon.

When offended, Americans like to shoot or sue. In this case the boy's parents are taking Mickey Mouse to court for assault.

Florida. For one thing, a number of people have noticed that their pet poodles have been eaten by alligators.

Be that as it may, the Disney and Mickey Mouse image has been somewhat damaged. It is true that President Reagan, who knows a thing or two about image, was photographed this week with his arm around Mickey Mouse in what might be construed as a gesture of forgiveness, but what happened to Boy, 6, is the equivalent in image terms of Seifried's Father Christmas giving a cheeky kid a thick ear, or a yeoman warder at the Tower of London picking an American tourist right through his head of dollars, causing him to bleed on his new Burberry. However desirable these actions might be, they would not be good for business.

There is not only a question of assault here. There is also the matter of disillusionment, which, in a way, is intimately tied to the sort of Mickey Mouse before he became airborne. And, this being America, there are no doubt many psychologists who would testify, for a fee, that he now exhibits negative Mickey Mouse syndrome.

Disillusionment is, of course, part of the wear and tear of existence. But this boy, in common with millions of Americans, is having to go through the difficult transition period associated with Coca-Cola's decision to change the taste of its inimitable product after 99 successful years. The "real thing" is no longer the real thing that it was.

If these solid pillars of the American way of life, once so solid and seemingly immovable, are crumbling, there is bound to be a growth in public anxiety about the future of institutions. The parents of Boy, 6, have their own disillusionment. For example, they see the mighty heroes of capitalism and the wholesome companies turning out to be cheating the government and the people without a speck of conscience. A saddened people note how the once proud stars-and-stripes droops. Can it be that Mickey Mouse, the mugger, is in keeping with a new age of disillusion?



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AFTER BRUSSELS

On the day after a disaster it is forgivable to feel a little less angry than one felt amid the sudden horror of the event itself. Over the past violent decade the game of football had developed a particularly strong mastery of such self-forgiveness. But just as Valley Parade, Bradford, should be a lasting symbol of reprimand to the shabby backwardness of the lower levels of English Football League, so the images of the Heysel Stadium in Brussels must remain before our minds to represent the higher echelons until we are satisfied that they can never be repeated at any level.

The Prime Minister said yesterday that her feelings of horror after than they had been the night before. So should everyone's be. First responses to the terrace killings did not show British politicians in a favourable light; MPs of all parties were for once unable to hide behind their privileged possession of the facts, since the facts were on television for all to see. The Minister of Sport, Mr Neil Macfarlane, floundered amid the shallows of the UEFA rules. Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk indulged in grotesque electioneering by his uncritical support of Liverpool Football Club and all who sail with her. Only Mr David Alton had the courage to approach the deep truth of this matter. And even he shied away from the simple most central truth that, if British clubs breed poison growths in their midsts (and poison does not need to be chosen voluntarily by its victim) we should not knowingly deliver the diseased results to our neighbours and allies. We try to avoid exporting rotten meat: we should try to keep our sick football supporters at home too.

It will not be easy. It sticks in the throat to advocate collective punishment for sins whose primary perpetrators may never be discovered. Nonetheless, yesterday's spectacle of accusation and counter-accusation flashing across the television screens - alleged abuses by NF extremists, ticket touts, too-tough policemen, too-tough policemen - is an unedifying and unworthy one.

The football associations should not wait to be banned from European competition. They should withdraw of their own accord for as long as they think it will take to put their affairs in order at home. It will be argued that only the English should be punished - not the clubs from Scotland and Wales. But that is to insist - as we hardly have the right to do - that the world should see Britain as our football administrators do. On the continent of Europe they call it the British disease. If it cannot be cured painlessly it is the British Government that takes the responsibility for applying the discipline. The discipline should be for all.

Losing European revenue will cost the clubs money. But the money will not be taken from the lower leagues who are struggling to improve their grounds in the wake of the Bradford fire. The losers can afford it.

The European football authorities should certainly tighten their own procedures. They should answer the charges (levelled most strongly by those in the press and elsewhere who are football's firm friends) that good political guidance has been consistently ignored. But the British football associations cannot expect their European friends to build costly defences against an evil which they see as coming almost exclusively from abroad.

British football may have eventually to be played in fortified amphitheatres with iron cages where there used to be terraces, and a breathalyser machine at every turnstile. Change will cost money. It should also however make money, not least from such sponsors as may prefer to be associated with a club whose supporters' eyes are on the players' shirts and not on the source of the next fire bomb. But some clubs will lose money, their support and their livelihoods. Future football matches may not have the excitement and romance of the national game of our past. But at least it may be a game again, a game worth playing and safe for export too.

VISION IN EUROPE

Britain is about to reply officially to French proposals for a European Research Coordination Agency - better known by its near-acronym Eureka. Despite initial, and continuing, reservations, that reply now seems certain to be positive. Sir Geoffrey Howe has intimated as much, thus clearing the way for a round of multilateral talks - probably at, or in the margins of, the EEC summit at Milan in four weeks' time. This must be the right course of action.

There are, it must be said, real and understandable reasons for Anglo-Saxon scepticism. The original proposal was vague and insubstantial, smacking more of a political initiative than a thoroughly researched, coherent plan.

Eureka was moreover being interpreted, in so far as it could be, as a European counter to President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) - his scenario for Star Wars. Britain had already welcomed the chance of participating in American SDI research and the prospect of a counter-attraction nearer home was at least a complicating factor which would need evaluation before any kind of positive response could be given by London.

But the most common reaction on this side of the Channel was that Eureka was unnecessary. Collaborative projects already exist in Europe, in for instance fusion research, aerospace and microelectronics, while acronyms proliferate - like Esprit (information technology), Brite (industrial research) and Race (telecommunications). Eureka in British eyes appeared at first (and to some extent it still does) to be another tier of Euro-bureaucracy, hindering progress rather than hastening it and spending more money on paperwork and staff.

This Anglo-Saxon scepticism may well turn out to have been justified. But there are times when the Government needs to peer into Europe's future with rather more vision than its more customary cautious, pragmatic approach allows. And there are several reasons for believing that this is one of those times.

In the first place the issue coincides with an animated debate over the Community's future - a subject which is likely to dominate next month's Euro-summit. Britain has already acquired a reputation for dragging its feet along the road to closer integration - largely through the scrupulous care with which each new proposal is examined - and as often as not

rejected - in Whitehall. It is important for Britain that this country is not left behind among the also-rans.

Moreover there is a very good case to be made for Eureka, which is emerging as something far more (or less) than a European variant of the SDI. The French argue that the agency itself may be of secondary importance. More essential is the political impetus to help co-operation in European technology - civil more than military - in the face of overwhelming competition from the United States and Japan. The American Star Wars programme will give such further momentum to American research that a gap left now between the Old World and the New will become as unbridgeable as the Atlantic. Europe's own technocrats will then be tempted both by money and ambition to emigrate - thus making the problem still worse. In one sense Eureka is an attempt to plug a braindrain.

The latest British view is that a Co-ordination Agency should concentrate upon the exploitation of basic research rather than the research itself. So be it. From that position the Government should be able to find common ground with France and West Germany which has also said yes to the French initiative. As for the fear that the French might use Eureka to advance their own interests, this is far better countered by a British within the agency than without.

How Eureka might fit into the EEC frame is not immediately obvious. Few members would have a great deal of high technology to coordinate and it may in the end involve very much France, Britain, West Germany and Italy, and possibly Holland. The result is thus likely to be an example of EEC variable-geometry, with one half of the Community advancing on its own.

But there is also a theory that Europe may find itself drawn into coordination with Japan, should the American lead in high technology be hugely stretched by the impact of the SDI. A number of European countries have been concerned by the extent to which the present US administration is restricting access to its latest technology even where security connections are to say the least tenuous.

If this restrictive policy continues, co-operation between European countries will become an urgent necessity, and not just a debatable French idea. Britain would then have cause to regret any early indifference.

Why Gatwick has only one runway

From Mr P. W. Bryant.

Sir, It is time for Baroness Burton (May 23) to abandon her mission for a second runway at Gatwick and face the facts. To continue with it is to add confusion to an already complex airport debate.

When Gatwick was first thought of as a two-runway airport today's wide-bodied aircraft were not even on the drawing board. If they had been their space requirements are such that the location would not have been chosen, situated as it is in the narrow gap of open country between the towns of Crawley and Horley. The space available between these towns is insufficient unless, of course, wholesale demolition is to be contemplated.

It is by no means that the British Airports Authority abandoned its proposals for a second runway and sited the second passenger terminal astride its former alignment. When other obstructions, such as the hills to the west and the London-to-Brighton railway line to the east, are also taken into account the total impracticability of a second runway at Gatwick becomes self-evident. These were the circumstances that led to the legal agreement between the British Airports Authority and the West Sussex County Council that one should not be built.

Even a short commuter runway favoured by some as an alternative is not a practical proposition because its use would so interfere with the operation of the main runway that its capacity would be reduced.

The arguments against an international airport at Gatwick were not heeded in the 1950s. One runway only at Gatwick is the consequence.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. BRYANT,
County Planning Officer,
West Sussex County Council,
County Hall, Tower Street,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
May 28.

From Mr Peter N. L. Terry

Sir, In *The Times* of May 23, Ronald Butt talked of the new industries being developed in the Slough-Swindon area "under the magnetic pull of Heathrow". On the same day, Lady Burton of Coventry wrote to say we cannot afford not to build a second runway at Gatwick.

What is surely needed in the North is additional runways at Manchester or the Leeds-Bradford airports or even a new airport. In this way "a magnetic pull" attracting industry to the hard-hit areas of the North would be achieved, thus helping to spread the country's prosperity more evenly.

Although it is of minor concern, those of us living in the North are very often forced to use Heathrow or Gatwick airports to get to our destination on the day of our choice. This quadruple the time taken and add 50 per cent to the cost of a family travelling abroad on holiday.

I do suggest more priority should be given to the requirements of the North before a third London airport is built or a second runway at Gatwick.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TERRY,
Cherry Hill,
Brandsbury,
York,
May 24.

Botanic heritage

From Mr Douglas A. Raine

Sir, I have spent the last 15 years specialising in town and country planning matters in both local government and in private practice, for and against the developer. I have also been a member of my county naturalists' trust for some 20 years. I hope therefore I am as even-handed as your correspondent, Mr Porter (May 27).

He suggests that a local planning authority may refuse planning permission for sites of botanic interest even if not fully protected under the legislation. Whilst, at present, the planning authority might refuse permission for development that would do no good as the destruction of the site can still take place by way of acts not requiring permission, such as ploughing or the application of weedkiller.

There is nothing to protect on what rounds planning permission be refused? Indeed, one would argue that permission could not be refused in the first place as it is a material consideration for the local planning authority or the Secretary of State to consider what can be done without permission when determining an application.

If society wishes to have such sites protected, then proper machinery must be enacted. Until it is, one cannot really expect the developer to forgo his interests.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. RAINE,
Mungatrevy,
36 Holywell Hill,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire,
May 27.

A Rolls in Russia

From Sir John Killick

Sir, Commander Rees, in his letter of May 23 has by no means exhausted the fascinatingly irrelevant question of Rolls-Royces in the Soviet Union. Lenin's Rolls is in fact in the country estate at Gori, some distance from Moscow, where he lived out his later years. I believe it is occasionally still driven - everything like it, because it is a half-track at the rear, so as to be able to make the journey into Moscow through the snow in winter.

But in my time in Moscow, apart from Lenin's and the Embassy's cars, there were at least two others. Leonid Brezhnev's penchant for collecting cars was legendary - as was his driving skill. (He was once

Britain's duty to Tamil refugees

From the Director of The British Refugee Council

Sir, The Home Secretary's announcement of the imposition of a visa requirement for nationals of Sri Lanka conceals the nature of the tragedy affecting the Tamil community in that country.

Every day we listen to the horrific personal accounts of young Tamils telling of repeated arrests, torture, homes looted and burned, and random shooting of young men. The security measures of the Sri Lankan government may be aimed at Tamil terrorists and their organisations (leader May 29), but they are in effect carried out against the young male Tamil population generally.

This situation has been building up inexorably over the past two years. During that time Britain and her European partners have done nothing to put pressure on the Sri Lankan government to bring the island's communities together. Urgent diplomatic initiatives are now needed.

The Home Secretary's response to the threat of a "flood" of Tamil refugees in Britain is deeply disappointing. France and Germany have received many more Tamils than Britain and yet have allowed them all to remain temporarily. When events in Poland and Iran demanded it, the British Government agreed not to force refugees back to these countries. We strongly believe that the same treatment should be available to the Tamils, who are in addition Commonwealth citizens.

British voluntary agencies and Tamil community groups here are willing to assist the Home Office in a planned programme for Tamils arriving in Britain. We have an obligation to provide a safe haven to those who need it until the situation in Sri Lanka allows them to go home. We look forward to a dialogue with the Government on

how this can best be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BARBER, Director,
The British Refugee Council,
Bondway House,
3/9 Bondway, SW8.

From the President of the Social Democratic Party

Sir, Reports of continuing intercommunal violence in Sri Lanka are not reassuring for Tamil refugees who may be forcibly returned there. Whatever the intentions of the Sri Lanka Government, substantial areas of the island are not under their control. The refugees might be sent back from Britain to their deaths.

In 1969, when Idi Amin was threatening to expel the Ugandan Asian community, many of them British passport-holders, I met the then Indian Foreign Secretary, Swaran Singh, who said that India would take, on a temporary basis, East African Asian refugees on the understanding that they had the right as United Kingdom passport-holders eventually to settle in Britain. India later admitted thousands of refugees from East Africa on this basis.

The Tamil refugees in Britain should be offered a temporary right to stay until order has been re-established in Sri Lanka and their lives are not at risk. As in the case of the East African Asians, the voluntary organisations in Britain might be willing to set up and manage temporary accommodation, and the refugees could be required to register with the police. Immigrants are detained for months while their right to settle here is investigated. Surely they could be maintained for a few months to assure their right to live.

Britain has a proud tradition of protecting refugees. It would betray that tradition to force the Tamils back to Sri Lanka until their safety is assured.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, President,
Social Democratic Party,
4 Cowley Street, SW1.

University in peril

From Professor Bryan Thwaites

Sir, You report (May 11) that the royal-chartered independence of Westfield, the last remaining small college of London University, is under threat so as to enhance still further the size of a bigger college which has already absorbed two others. This proposal will seem to many admirers of the university not only regrettable in its own right but, more ominously, a foreboding of the eventual demise of the great federation that was once the University of London.

Especially in the decade or two after the war, London was, by a long chalk, the greatest of our English universities. To begin with, its institutions, which catered for internal students, covered a range unequalled elsewhere: a fine variety of single and multi-faculty colleges, several specialist or professional schools, many post-graduate and research institutes, some 13 medical schools, and more besides.

But that was only the start of its national and international influence. Many of our present universities were then university colleges of London; and most of the Commonwealth's universities owe their existence to the tutelage of London. Then again, nearly a third of the whole national output of teachers was produced by colleges under the aegis of London University. And there are living hundreds of thousands of people who gratefully owe their graduate status to the London external degree system.

Thirty or 40 years on, all those potent influences have been stripped from, or relinquished by, the university. The outward-looking energies which sustained them have been redirected towards introverted power struggles which have been rationalized into academic arguments in favour of large, self-feeding institutions.

By their very definition, these new conglomerates are each big enough to render unnecessary the inter-collegiate collaboration which was the mainspring of the federation a few decades ago. The federal university has lost its point and will, in due course, split up - though it will

probably take a generation or so a-dying.

Recollection of great times past can never bring them back; nor is it proper or profitable to impute any but honourable motives to those who have brought the university to this pass. But the observer from outside may perhaps be allowed the thought that, when the future seems so inevitable, Macbeth had a point when he said: "If it were done when 'tis done, 'twere well it were done quickly'".

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES
(Principal of Westfield College,
1966-83),
c/o The Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1,
May 14.

From Mr A. H. Sawyer

Sir, Those responsible for the present cuts against last week's Green Paper on higher education should bear in mind the possibility that Sir Keith Joseph may not have got everything wrong. For example, should the public continue to fund the tenure system, whereby a lecturer made redundant can claim huge compensation?

And surely it is high time that the professional standards at most universities were improved; in 1983 the Department of Education and Science reported that about 40 per cent of PhD candidates in the humanities had not completed their theses after 10 years' study; the DES apparently wished to imply that inadequate supervision was at least partly to blame here.

Finally, at how many universities can one expect justified complaints about standards not to be met with indifference? Indeed, a main criticism of the Green Paper might be that the university administration officials are unlikely to be hurt badly by Sir Keith's policies, whereas large numbers of students, and perhaps a number of brilliant and conscientious lecturers and researchers, are likely to be seriously affected by them.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. SAWYER,
46 Madeira Street,
Leam,
Edinburgh,
May 27.

After abolition

From Sir Arthur Peterson

Sir, Your leading article on May 23 ("After abolition") stressed the need to scrutinize the development of London local government after the disappearance of the GLC.

An effective means of meeting this need would be to create, preferably in the present legislation, a Metropolitan Government Research Trust which could carry on the research work which was one of the statutory duties of the GLC.

The Government could show its confidence in the workability of the new system by providing an endowment of, say, £5 million from the GLC assets, and there would be a good chance of getting support

Footling the bill for school books

From Mr John A. Grimer

Sir, I was quite amazed to hear Sir Keith Joseph apportion part of the blame for the deplorable state of so many of our schools on the "determination of teachers to take more than their share" of education resources, and their "raiding the books fund".

In this small comprehensive school between a quarter and a third of all money spent on books is raised by members of staff in their "free" time by means of school tuckshop sales, summer "fayres", sponsored activities and other fund-raising events. These commitments continue - even during this period of industrial action. We simply cannot afford to drop them. This year one member of staff has spent £67 of his own money to buy a set of fourth-year history books rather than see his pupils go short.

How much longer must teachers endure Sir Keith's gratuitous insults? Is it not high time he, too, was subjected to the "assessment" he is so keen to impose on teachers, and replaced?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. GRIMER, Deputy Head,
Loce School,
Sunning,
East Loos,
Cornwall,
May 24.

Sadness of Brussels

From Mr James R. Mancham

Sir, Last night I watched the TV report about the European Cup Final in Brussels between Liverpool and Juventus, of Italy. What sadly took place is today's international headlines. But what was even sadder than the tragedy was the attitude of the different personalities interviewed after the event, almost all of whom accused the Belgian authorities of not erecting strong enough barriers to keep apart the different supporting fans. It was obvious that these fans were being regarded/accepted at par level with a bunch of wild and ferocious animals suddenly let loose in a closed cage.

Certainly one of the basic problems of today is the result of the decline of elementary Christian principles and values and the failure to accept sports as events intended to promote friendship and good will among nations and not hate and hostility, as was obvious by some of the behaviour displayed. I personally look forward to the day when different supporting fans can sit side by side without any barrier among them.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES R. MANCHAM,
85 Deodar Road,
Putney, SW15,
May 30.

Fathers' care of children

From the Chairman of The Fawcett Society

Sir, As feminists we find ourselves keen to champion any self piece of legislation for working men in their role as fathers. We refer to the EC draft Directive on Parental Leave, which will enable working fathers as well as mothers to take three months' leave to care for their children within the first two years of a child's life.

The House of Lords approved this draft Directive, having first received submissions from interested organisations, 90 per cent of which were in favour of the legislation. Furthermore, seven out of nine of our European partners have similar provisions already on their statute books; yet the Government's stated intention is to veto this Directive, considering that it might prove a costly (but unquantified) burden to employers. Present research however has shown that employers have not found the cost of maternity leave burdensome, contrary to earlier predictions.

Parental leave is important because, in giving fathers an equal right to take leave to care for their child it will also promote greater equality of opportunity for women. The recent Department of Employment women and employment survey showed that women's earnings and promotion prospects are severely curtailed by their children's responsibilities, partly due to the absence of adequate pre-school facilities; this measure would be a small but necessary step on the road to equal opportunity.

We bemoan maternity leave because we are committed to equality between the sexes; and it is by that token that we are supporting the proposal on parental leave which will benefit both sexes as well as their children.

Yours etc,
MARGARET JOACHIM,
Chairman,
The Fawcett Society,
46 Harleyford Road, SE11,
May 20.

Past masters

From Mr Duncan Stewart

Sir, I read with interest today's report (May 22) in *The Times* of the match in 1878 when the Marylebone Cricket Club and Ground played the Australians, because this emphasised even more than I was aware of the slow over rates which are now taken for granted in the modern game.

It appears that bowlers - Shaw and Morley - each bowled 33 overs in two hours which is approximately double today's rate. Even if these two bowlers were slow over-spinners, which is doubtful, it is still a much higher rate than pre-war players.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN STEWART,
180 Hezme Road,
Worthing,
West Sussex,
May 22.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 31 1908

The disaster of Mukden when the Russian army had to retreat was followed by the loss of its Baltic fleet in the battle near Tsushima. It was a large armada but in quality inferior to the Japanese fleet. Faced with such a humiliating defeat and with internal disorder Russia was compelled to accept the mediation of the U.S. resulting in a treaty of peace signed in August 1905.

GREAT JAPANESE VICTORY.

RUSSIAN FLEET SHATTERED. TOGO'S OFFICIAL REPORT. The following official despatch, dated Tokyo, May 29, 4.15 p.m., was received at the Japanese Legation last night.

Reports from Togo received at Headquarters -

First report received morning of May 27 -

"Immediately on receipt of report that the Russian squadron was in sight our combined squadrons started for attack. The weather is fine to-day but with heavy seas."

Second report, received night of May 27 -

"Our combined squadrons attacked Russian squadron to-day near Okino Shima, to the south-east of Tsushima, and defeated it, sinking at least four ships and inflicting heavy damage upon others."

"Damage to our ships is insignificant."

"Our destroyer and torpedo flotillas delivered attack after sunset..."

ST. PETERSBURG.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

ST. PETERSBURG, MAY 29.

Not one Russian in ten thousand has even a suspicion of the terrible disaster reported from the Tokyo, for the censorship has carefully suppressed the dreadful laconic message enumerating the trophies secured by Togo...

I called at the Admiralty to inquire whether there was any new from Vladivostok. An Admiral whose only son is with Rozhdestvensky sadly replied: "No, nor can there be for several days; the surviving vessels must steam slowly on account of the perpetual fog prevailing there at this season."

The bad news reached Tamsko Selo this afternoon in the form of an agency telegram. Its effect upon the Tsar must indeed be terrible, for he had placed all his hopes upon the issue of a sea fight. With him all official Russia saw in a victory hopes of the revival of Government prestige at home and abroad, the return of popular confidence, and the eventual triumph of the Russian policy of expansion in the Far East.

If the Tokyo version is absolutely correct, the Russians have lost all but two of their battleships, which are hopeless and irretrievable disaster. I hear, but cannot vouch for the correctness of the story, that Rozhdestvensky commanded a destroyer and headed for Vladivostok...

I hear that the crew of one of the Russian ships mutilated while proceeding to the China Sea. Rozhdestvensky brought the mutilated to reason by threatening to open fire upon them. The presence of disaffection among the sailors may also account for the striking of four Russian flags in this modern Trafalgar.

LATER.

The news of Russia's crushing disaster is bound to become quickly known. The rigours of the censorship are unavailing against many-tongued rumour, and the revolutionaries will help to magnify rather than to lessen the defeat. The revolutionaries, of course, hope to use it as a powerful lever to bring about a general uprising. They will not fail to dwell upon the ruinous and hopeless character of the struggle into which the Government, heedless of the voice of the people, has driven the country; but the revolutionaries in saying this will only be repeating the argument of the Radicals, and even of the Liberals, whose aim is to avoid revolution. The great mass of Russians realize that the war is futile, but they are not ripe for revolutionary doctrines, and instead of rising against the Government on account of the naval disaster, are likely to heave a sigh of relief at the prospect of early peace.

To the great majority of Russians, whether they belong to the cultured classes or to the villages, Rozhdestvensky's overthrow bodes nothing but good in its promise of peace and its assurance of reform. Russia is the sad but sober truth, Russia has become a vast object lesson in the evils of government by irresponsible bureaucrats and police officials, thanks to which initiative and enterprise have been systematically eradicated from the nation. The police, who are able to promote massacres of Jews and Armenians, as in Jitomir and Eriwan, have proved quite incapable of introducing good government, but there is excellent promise for Russia's future in the outspokenness and sincerity displayed by the majority of the Russian people. The fearless criticism of the evils of the present administration gives an earnest of the revival of the national energies, which, as soon as the promises of sound government are realized, will enable Russia quickly to recover from her present distress and to take her rightful place among the great nations of the world.

Legal short-cut?

From Mr C. J. Cahill

Sir, When returning a summons relating to an alleged motoring offence at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court today I was asked the date of my conviction.

Puzzled, I explained that I had not been convicted.

The somewhat irritated official explained this meant the date of the future hearing.

Proposals to reduce delays and increase the efficiency of magistrates' courts seem to be way ahead of schedule.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. CAHILL,
69 Grace's Road, SE5,
May 20.

Black power underground

The growing industrial muscle of South Africa's black gold miners gives them power to threaten the country's economy. Michael Hornsby asks what comes next in this new arena of struggle

The almost daily toll of deaths, injuries and butchery in South Africa's black townships, as the police resort to increasingly heavy-handed methods to suppress unrest and fighting intensifies between rival black factions, is the stuff of newspaper headlines and television news bulletins. A less visible, but equally important struggle, is being waged in South Africa's gold mines where nearly half a million Blacks toil thousands of feet beneath the high veld of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal to dig out the yellow metal that is still one of the main pillars of the country's economy.

In 1984, gold supplied 46 per cent of all foreign exchange earnings (down from about 50 per cent because of the drop in the dollar price of gold on a world market). The mining industry as a whole contributed an estimated 13.9 per cent of the gross domestic product, of which rather more than three fifths was attributable to gold. The gold mines also furnished R2,314m (£930m), about 10 per cent of total state revenue, in taxes, mining lease payments and other royalties.

The potential economic bargaining power of the 451,003 Blacks recorded last year as working on the gold mines is thus considerable. It also explains why the mining industry resisted the organisation of Black trade unions more fiercely than any other sector of the non-agricultural economy.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), the main union on the mines, was recognised by the employers for the first time in 1983, four years after the Government legalized Black trade unions - arguably the most important reform introduced by President (then still Prime Minister) P. W. Botha - and nearly 40 years after an earlier attempt to organize a union on the mines was ruthlessly crushed by armed force.

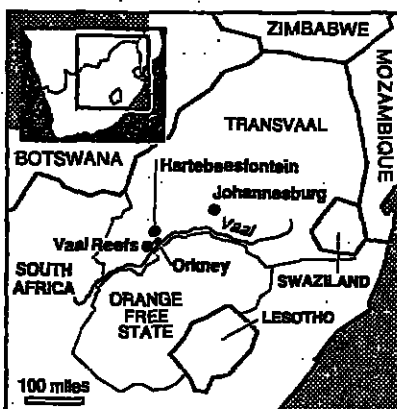
Cyril Ramaphosa, the NUM's articulate, 33-year-old general secretary, is a lawyer by training and a former student leader who spent 11 months in detention without trial in 1974. He estimates that his union now has a signed-up membership of 110,000, of whom 60,000 are fully paid up. This estimate is broadly accepted by the Chamber of Mines, which represents the mining houses.

Under the system negotiated by the Chamber with the NUM, the union can apply for recognition as soon as it can show that it represents between 30 and 40 per cent of Blacks in any one job category on any one mine. To date it has won recognition on 16 divisions of 13 of the 34 gold mining companies which are members of the Chamber. Of these, 11 are owned by the giant Anglo American Corporation, two by Gold Fields of South Africa, and one each by the General Mining and Union Corporation (Gencor), Anglovaal and Rand Mines.

In September of last year the NUM called its first legal strike, a step that can



Bowed but unbending: How far will black gold miners be allowed to go to improve their conditions of work?



A GOLDMINE'S AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGE

	1971	1984
Whites	R386 (£138)	R1,800 (£643)
Blacks	R18 (£6.50)	R358 (£128)

Source: Chamber of Mines
Despite a big relative improvement in Black wages, the absolute gap between White and Black pay is getting bigger. Blacks get free board and lodging on the mine compounds, which the Chamber values at R120 a month. But White miners also get their houses virtually free, paying only about R15 a month in rent.

only be taken after a lengthy conciliation procedure and "cooling-off" period has been exhausted. The Chamber quickly came up with a revised wage offer, and the strike was called off only a day after it had begun, but too late to prevent serious clashes between miners and riot police on several mines in which about 10 people were killed and hundreds injured.

So far this year more than 60,000 Black miners have been involved in illegal strikes and work stoppages. At the end of April, Anglo American and Anglovaal sacked more than 17,000 miners from their Vaal Reef and Hartbeespoort mines in the biggest mass dismissal in mining history after more than a month of wildcat strikes and "go-slows".

Two days later, bombs, probably planted by agents of the banned African National Congress, exploded outside the Johannesburg offices of the two companies, which are now re-hiring many of the sacked men, weeding out "troublemakers" in the process. Though neither will admit publicly that is what they are doing.

Anglo American was the first mining house to encourage trade unionism, and also led the way in improving living conditions on the barracks-like mine

compounds. Last month's sudden reversion to traditional strong-arm methods of dealing with labour trouble - trucking striking miners back to the tribal "homelands" and foreign countries from which most of them come as migrants and replacing them from the large pool of unemployed Blacks bottled-up in these impoverished rural areas - dented the company's enlightened image.

"Let's get one thing straight, there are no Black miners in South Africa. There are Black labourers", Arrie Paulus, the 55-year-old leader of the white mineworkers' union (MWU), is quick to point out. He would like to keep it that way. There were 47,479 Whites employed on the gold mines last year, about half of them officials and half members of various unions, of which the MWU is the most powerful.

Even the formidable Paulus, however, may at last have to bow to the forces of change. Already specialist areas of mine employment have been opened up to all races. At the end of last year, for example, 300 of the 650 people being trained as samplers, surveyors and ventilation officials were Black. Previously all these jobs would have been done by Whites.

Now the Government has indicated its intention, with or without the

agreement of the MWU, to dismantle next year the last great bastion of statutory, race-based job reservation. This is the clause in the Mines and Works Act which limits the issue of blasting certificates to scheduled persons (ie Whites), and largely restricts Blacks to working as gangs of labourers under the supervision of White miners.

Abolition of this clause and its replacement by a non-racial definition of "competency" would be a major breakthrough, opening up for the first time the most skilled and best paid jobs on the gold mines to Blacks, and enabling them to begin closing the still yawning gap between Black and White levels of pay (see table).

The growing self-assertiveness of Black miners is reflected in increasing reports of retaliation in kind against physical assaults by Whites on Blacks in the mines. At Vaal Reef last month Blacks also rebelled against the traditional right of Whites to go automatically to the head of the queue for the cage-lifts that bring the men to the surface at the end of a shift. There were even some reports of White miners taking firearms with them underground for protection.

The announcement of the Government's intent to abolish job reservation could take some of the heat out of the annual wage negotiations with the NUM, which are just getting under way. Ramaphosa is demanding across-the-board pay rises of 40 per cent plus extra danger money at the most accident-prone mines. (Close to 600 Blacks are killed every year in the gold mines).

The unions point out that, despite the drop in the dollar price of gold, the mining houses made record profits in 1984. Last year, for example, the South African currency fell even more sharply against the dollar. Blacks' wages, on the other hand, have been eroded by an inflation rate now nudging 17 per cent. Most observers predict another strike. Whatever happens, life on the mines will never be quite the same again.

Restless search for new ideals



Bonington: Peak fitness

After Everest, what next? Chris Bonington is one of 176 mountaineers who have faced this exclusive dilemma. With no higher ambition achievable, and a host of Alpine and Himalayan peaks under his belt, it would surely be reasonable for him to descend into the role of sporting elder statesman.

Climb a harder but lesser peak and the world passes you by. Climb Everest and everyone wants to shake your hand. He came back a stone lighter. His face is weathered, fringed by a wild beard, and set with a pair of shrewd, good-humoured eyes. He admits that Everest was a personal marker for him.

In the Himalayas the challenge is stamina and morale; keeping moving in the thin air, conserving energy to be sure that, once on the top, there is enough fire in the legs and lungs to get down again. Added to that are the objective dangers, the thin-covered crevasses, the ice-fall nudging its way relentlessly down to the glacier, grumbling and spitting and showering down walls and towers of ice.

It is these dangers Bonington fears most. They have killed so many of his closest friends. "You block it out. At the start of an expedition I dread the thought that not everyone may return. What made the Norwegian expedition to Everest easier was the fact that the only person I knew well at the start was Arne, the leader. We all became good mates as the expedition got going, of course, they were really excellent people. What was so good about the climb was that six Norwegians and eight Sherpas got to the top and everyone came

peditions, and wheeler-dealing in book and magazine rights. Those early efforts which so disturbed the ethics of the day won an affectionately scornous verse from the late Dr Tom Patey, a close climbing friend. It is sung to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers" and begins:

'Onward Christian Bonington of The A.C.G.' Write another page of Alpine history. He has climbed the Eigerwand, he has climbed the Dru For a mere 10,000 francs he will climb with you. Onward Christian Bonington of the A.C.G. If you name the mountain, he will name the fee.'

*Alpine Climbing Group.

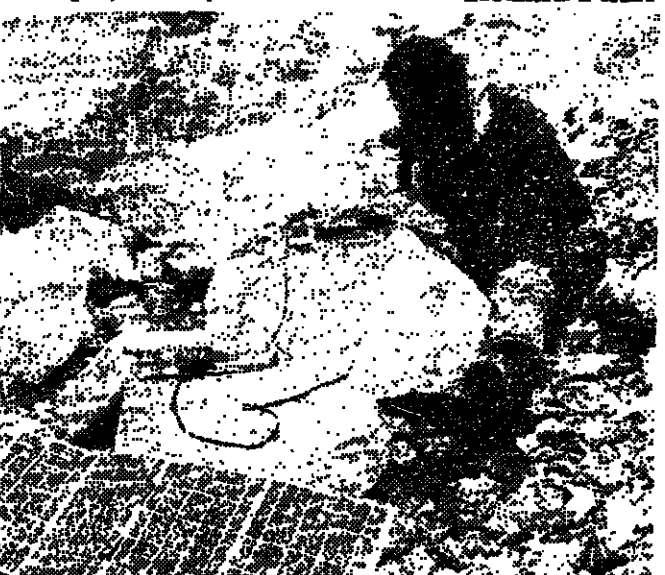
Bonington also loves gadgets. On Everest he carried a word processor powered by solar panel to Camp Two at 21,500ft. On this he wrote articles for a Sunday newspaper and worked out the expedition logistics. When possible he actively supports the British Mountaineering Council, the governing body of the sport of which he is a vice president. Although climbing may be the most non-bureaucratic of sports, it does need a watchdog guarding its interests. As competition for space grows, access problems increase and the time has gone when climbers can expect to carry on regardless.

What of the more distant questions, the welfare of the Sherpa people who have done so much to help his expeditions? Does he feel, like Sir Edmund Hillary, a compulsion to help them? Bonington's view is that, compared to many other parts of the Third World, the Sherpa district of Nepal is now relatively well off.

But he has agreed to be president of LEFRA which combats leprosy in parts of the world that no one cares to visit. "It is a disgusting disease and many who suffer it live in awful places. They deserve help."

Our interview is on the train. The Lakeland Hills are appearing, faint blue lines across the far sides of Morecambe Bay and soon the train is snaking in among them. They are great brown whalebacks with strong shoulders and round, Cumbrian names. For Bonington, they are the finest mountains in the world.

Ronald Faux

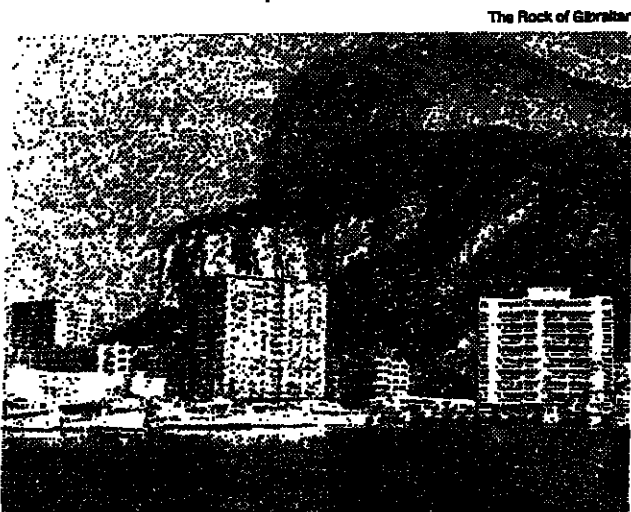


Micro on the mountain: On Everest with a word processor

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Blending coffee and culture

"It's barmy me living in here", says Julian Spalding, looking askance at his magnificent new office, with its boardroom table in the distance, its tall windows and its row of forbidding worthies glaring down from the walls. "I'd like to turn it into a coffee bar, for as I always say, 'man can't live by art alone'."

Spalding is the new director of the Manchester City Art Galleries. Very much a man of the people, having taken up the post on April 1, he has already worked miracles on their behalf. An ambitious development strategy has already been announced.

Manchester City Gallery directors are renowned for their distinctive working styles. Lorraine Courran, Spalding's predecessor but one, is said by staff to have discussed most of his business on the way to the gents. Timothy Clifford, who has just been elevated to directorship of the National Gallery of Scotland, is a politician, as he would be the first to admit. Julian Spalding prefers the informality of the pub, or local Chinese restaurants. He took me to one called the "Happy Gathering", overlooking the gallery.

Despite Timothy Clifford's rousing campaigns to raise funds for the Algard bust and the Ducro crucifixion, Manchester has been artistically down in the dumps of late. In 1981 the council decided it could not afford to keep its five branch galleries open, yet, as they were all listed, they had to continue paying £140,000 annually to keep them standing.

The Rotherston Scheme (800 prints and paintings presented to Manchester in 1925 for the purpose of being lent to the public) was stopped by Clifford in 1981. It was replaced by the Patrons' Scheme, whereby, in Spalding's words, "You give vast sums of money to borrow on a longer term basis". A forbidding-looking building, the City Art Gallery is avoided by most Mancunians. Most days the galleries echo like a morgue.

"I feel like a little plant that



Spalding: 'Redder than red'

has been ripped up and replanted. My roots are having to grow very fast," says Spalding. In the seven months before starting work at Manchester, he produced his bold development strategy, and has just heard that he has the go-ahead: a 27 per cent increase in spending this year - about £150,000 - to increase by a further £30,000 over the next four years.

Our buildings are valid works of art in themselves

As a result, he will gradually open up all but one of the outlying galleries in such areas as Withenshaw, Didsbury and Rusholme. He will set Rotherston's pictures rolling again, having released them from the dismal pens in which they are currently stacked, and he will start an ambitious touring exhibition service with continual shows in the Athenaeum (the building that used to be a reading room behind the city art galleries). This will be redesigned by Paul Williams, who was responsible for the atmospheric display of the recent Romanesque show at the Hayward Gallery.

Apart from the energy of his 37 years, Julian Spalding has just heard that he has the go-ahead: a 27 per cent increase in spending this year - about £150,000 - to increase by a further £30,000 over the next four years.

"Glory of Garden" policy, where funds are to be spread more fairly to the regions. They are providing Manchester with £250,000 this year, followed by £250,000 for the next four years. The local Labour council was elected in May 1984 with a manifesto pledging to reopen the branch galleries.

A trip round the branch galleries takes the greater part of a day, particularly in the rattier car of Richard Gray, one of the keepers. However, it is a worthwhile experience, for as Spalding says, "our buildings are valid works of art in themselves". It is also a chance to see him in action. "I'm the new director. How do you do?" he says, as with one bound he leaps through the door of Tatton Hall to shake the hands of a startled warder.

Spalding sees potential tea and coffee rooms wherever he goes. He also imagines rationalising Manchester's collections, bringing, for example, the Chinese ceramics into the city centre, where the Chinese community now lives, and disposing of some of the fine costume collection (second only to the V & A) in the branch galleries. "We'll get our collections out for the benefit of the local people. We want to create environments that will tell you an awful lot about life of the time and well as the visual aspects."

Meanwhile, Spalding's staff race round, inspired, choosing wallpapers and carpets, straggled like newlyweds, bringing suggestions to him. Manchester's collecting policy has become daring in another way overnight. "We're going to affect taste. The Saatchis have done it, and so why shouldn't we?" asks Spalding. So far he has bought an exquisite Russian post-Revolution chess set for £25,000, where pawns on one side labour under chains, and the liberated ones on the other side cheerfully wield sickles. This, he jokes, will bring him the reputation of being redder than red.

Sarah Jane Checkland

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 658)

- ACROSS
- 1 Camping stove (6)
- 5 Whiten (6)
- 8 Pot vegetable (3)
- 9 21 shilling (6)
- 10 Underground passage (6)
- 11 Sea ice mass (4)
- 12 Science's shepherd (8)
- 14 Stalwart (6)
- 17 Bee-keeping area (6)
- 19 Obscenity (8)
- 22 Pain cry (4)
- 24 Brief bathing costume (6)
- 25 Prophecy (6)
- 26 Gaudily (3)
- 27 Surreal (6)
- 28 Soak (6)
- DOWN
- 2 Cheek cosmetic (5)
- 3 Administrator (7)
- 4 Frugally (7)
- 5 Founded (5)
- 6 Photograph binder (5)
- 7 Outcry (7)
- 13 Yell (3)
- 15 Swarming (7)
- 16 University teacher (3)
- 17 Sneak away (7)
- 18 Place apart (7)
- 20 Condescend (6)
- 21 Enlighten (5)
- 23 Abdominal pain (5)

SOLUTION TO No 657
ACROSS: 6 Lady of the Lake 9 Rue 10 Guarantee 11 Theme 13 Neutral 16 Amnesia 19 Waste 22 Locomotor 24 Lob 25 Metamorphosis
DOWN: 1 Floret 2 Adhere 3 Congress 4 Attain 5 Beta 6 Banter 7 Befell 12 Hump 14 Unworthy 15 Air 16 Aplomb 17 Nicety 18 Attire 20 Splash 21 Emboss 23 Mama

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MARKET RESEARCH/1
By Torin Douglas

(SPECIAL REPORT)

At the court of King Consumer

The market research business makes much of its money by charting the rise and fall of different sectors of the economy including itself. Unlike the cobbler whose children were perennially ill-shod, the market research industry monitors its progress in minute detail. By any measures, it has to pronounce itself in good health.

Firms in Britain are spending increasingly large sums of finding out what customers want, whether it involves the texture of a new chocolate bar, the sales of the latest electric kettle, a preference for paying bills by credit card or the location of a new supermarket.

The Association of Market Survey Organizations (AMSO), which represents 27 of the biggest research firms and which this year celebrates its 21st anniversary, reports that its members' turnover grew by 20 per cent last year to £20 million.

The value of the business as a whole now exceeds £160 million a year and has grown by more than 40 per cent in three years, despite the recession - a distinction it shares with the advertising business, with which so much of its work is linked.

It is not just within the traditional fast-moving consumer goods area that research spending is growing but in a wide range of other businesses, particularly within the service sector, which now accounts for more than 30 per cent of AMSO members' turnover.

Norman Mould, the chairman of AMSO, says: "Britain is seeing a tremendous awakening in the service sector, generating new kinds of businesses, new opportunities and new rivalries. It seems that the institutional backers of business ventures are increasingly requiring



'There is a great awakening in the service sector'

Norman Mould
Chairman of AMSO

original data to support business plans. They now have a more realistic appreciation of the fact that since the marketplace is constantly changing, their plans, projections and graphs need constant updating."

The biggest growth in research spending in the last year has come from tourism and travel, up 65 per cent according to AMSO figures. Other big increases have been shown by the public services, whose spending on research has grown by 42 per cent in a year, the financial

and vehicle sectors (both up 37 per cent) and advertising agencies, up 23 per cent.

Despite the boom in the service industries' use of research, however, almost half the major research companies' business still comes from the consumer-goods firms - in particular from the food and soft drinks companies, who account for 22 per cent of research spending. Not a breakfast cereal is launched, not a snack introduced, without the market researchers being asked to assess the sales of existing competitors, the attitude of potential purchasers, the optimum name, flavour, texture, price and packaging of the product, and the right strategy and creative approach for advertising the new line.

Often this testing of the water can go through half a dozen stages, involving several research firms, since it is more cost-effective to use research on a small sample of the population and alter the product in the light of the findings than to go into full production immediately and discover that the customers will not buy.

It sounds like simple common sense, or straightforward good business practice, but the fact remains that what consumer-goods firms have taken for granted for many years is still ignored by many industrial companies.

Mr Mould says that the industrial sector offers cause for concern in the research world. "It is sad that they are not using all the marketing tools at their disposal as effectively as they could," he says. "The one bright spot in this sector covers electronic and office products, but sadly many of these companies are not British."

Once again the customer is always right

The 20 per cent rise in business for AMSO members is a boom that is part of the market researchers' changing attitudes within British industry generally, says Norman Mould. He sees it as being good for the economy and for the consumer.

Mr Mould, a director of BJM Research, says: "There is a recognition in a wider and growing spectrum of British business and industry that competition is the name of the game - and to compete you have to know what's going on out there among your customers. Change

is the norm in the marketplace and more and more businesses are using market research as an input to their decision-making in dealing with change. Management has rediscovered the ethic that 'the customer is king'."

Mr Mould maintains that one reason for the emergence of consumerism in the 1960s and 1970s was the fact that manufacturers had allowed themselves to become out of touch with their customers. He adds: "No one today is in any doubt

about the strength of the customer."

In its anniversary year, AMSO has undertaken to educate British industry about the greater role research could be playing in its regeneration. In conjunction with the Confederation of British Industry, it is holding a one-day conference in July aimed at those companies which have a need for research but are not familiar with how to buy or use it. If it gets the message across, the 20 per cent growth rate in the industry could well be exceeded in years to come.



Finding out what the public thinks: a researcher puts questions to a man in the street. His answers could determine what you buy

Hitting our markets

Norman Mould is not alone in expressing concern that overseas firms seem more inclined to use the services of UK research companies than their British competitors do. Last year, £8 million of AMSO members' business in the UK was accounted for by overseas clients, a rise of 14 per cent.

The terms "exports" and "imports" within the research world are confusing, not least because Britain now acts as the co-ordinating centre for a great deal of market research across Europe, but the fact remains that overseas firms are using research to help increase their penetration of UK markets.

A recent survey by the Institute of Marketing made with the University of Bradford and Industrial Market Research showed that only half the industrial goods firms that responded conducted market research, compared with four-fifths of the fast-moving consumer goods companies. Only 36 per cent of the 2,000 companies surveyed, all members of the Institute of Marketing, carried out formal market research, in the sense of commissioning a market research agency.

Tony McBurnie, the director-

general of the institute, formerly managing director of United Glass and the man responsible for marketing innovations such as the launch of the non-returnable bottle, maintains that the survey shows there is still a long way to go before market research is fulfilling its proper role in British industry.

He says: "It is very much the starting point of marketing. Marketing is the child of competition and choice. You have to do something to make people buy your product - and you can do that only by finding out what they want."

Norman Webb, a director of Gallup, says: "Though it is healthy for the UK research industry to attract overseas business, for the economy as a whole, it could be seen as a short-term benefit. In the long term, it means we are arming overseas companies with the information to take a larger share of our markets."

Tim Bowles, managing director of AGB Consumer Research, points to the consumer-durables field as an example. "It is the Japanese firms and companies such as Philips that are doing the market research rather than the British," he says.

The giant leap, from clipboard to chip

The cartoonists' image of the market researcher - a man or woman with a clipboard, stopping people in the street - is becoming increasingly outdated. By the 1990s, in some experts' views, such interviews may hardly take place at all.

Technology is having a massive impact on the research world, with computers, electronic meters, increasingly complex television link-ups, plastic identity cards and even the straightforward telephone replacing the traditional face-to-face interview.

Supermarkets now use laser-scanning machines at the check-out to tell them which lines are selling best and need restocking. Television companies use electronic meters to measure the size of a programme's audience and collect the data automatically via the phone, so the results are known the next morning.

Mail-order firms use computers to link lists of their customers with purchase data, via their home postcodes and retailers use the same technique to plan where to open new branches.

The recent Comedia report on the market research business cites the view of John Clemens of AGB Cable and Viewdata that in the future most interviewing "will take place via the TV screen in people's homes or at their place of work." This is based on his belief that by 1990 several million British homes will be passed by "inter-active" cable services.

"It will be possible to recruit panels from these homes who can be linked into our computer via their head-end computer," he says. "This will enable us to address them by electronic mail and to ask them to answer questionnaires."

Mr Clemens' company already runs such surveys using panels of up to 500 viewers equipped with special viewdata sets. In this way he has gathered data on reading habits for the National Readership Survey, audience reaction to television commercials and the views of a panel of directors.

Another piece of electronic wizardry provides the basis of AGB's assault on the Nielsen monopoly of the national television ratings in the United States. This is the People-Meter, a piece of equipment which records not only when the set is switched on and to which channel but which members of the household are watching.

It does this by a keyboard on which each member of the household is ascribed a number, which they are required to press both when they

start watching and when they stop. Under the existing Nielsen system, a meter records which channel is being watched but not who is watching; the later information is derived from a different panel of viewers who have to keep a diary detailing their viewing, quarter-hour by quarter-hour, for a week.

Given the number of television channels in many parts of the US, not to mention remote control switches and video-cassette recordings, the accuracy of such diary returns is open to question.

A problem with the switch to newer technology is that the new figures will often differ markedly from the old. AGB has recently introduced a version of the People-Meter in the UK and viewing figures have leapt by 25 per cent, year-on-year, largely because the new meters are picking up viewers the old system missed.

This in turn is being held partly responsible for the slump in ITV's advertising revenue during the last six months, because advertisers are reaching their audience targets with fewer transmissions.



John Clemens: "Interviews will be by TV in people's homes"

Television audience research is one of the industry's two major money-spinners, the other being retail audits, the sales checks on which manufacturers depend for information, not just on their own sales but on those of their competitors and the market as a whole. In the past, these checks have been largely done by the men and women with clipboards but now electronic point-of-sale (EPOS) techniques can do the job instantly, updating the records as soon as each purchase is made.

In monitoring the progress of a new product, or the effect of a change in packaging or price, such speed

Continued on page 16, col 1

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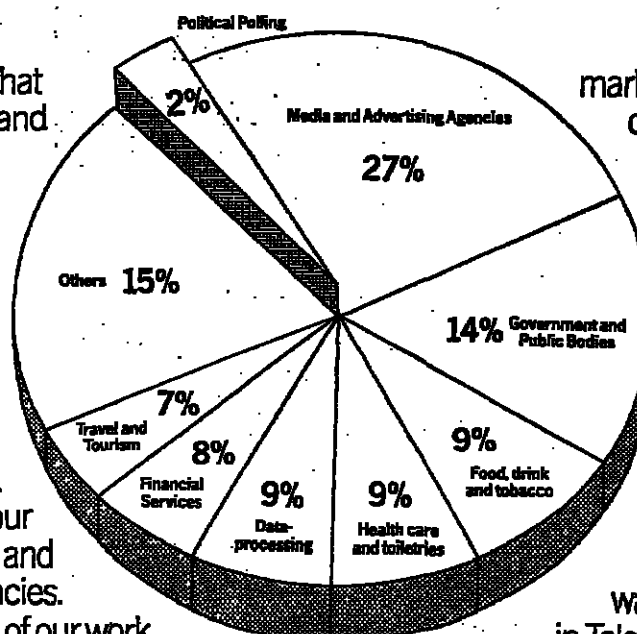
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(SPECIAL REPORT)

MARKET RESEARCH/2

Battle behind the soap-opera war

The television ratings war has taken on a new meaning in the research world, where the main interest lies not in whether *Dallas* or *Dynasty* beat *Coronation Street* or *Crossroads* but in which research company wins the lucrative contracts to supply the ratings services around the world.

Indeed, the battle itself has many of the ingredients of the best soap operas. It features two firms - one long-established, large and American, the other young, fast-growing and British - fighting for million-dollar television contracts all over the world. It even has a US city in which to base the drama - Boston - where the brash British newcomer, having beaten its American rival in several contests in other countries, has set itself up to challenge the giant on its own ground.

The US firm is A.C. Nielsen, the largest research company in the world and the only one to measure coast-to-coast audiences. Now part of the Dun & Bradstreet empire, its name is synonymous with the "number-crunching" business, on which all marketing men depend. The British company is AGB Research, the largest research firm in Europe, which has just launched a \$2.5 million pilot research project in Boston, designed to show the US television networks, advertising agencies and advertisers that it can provide a better service more cheaply than the mighty Nielsen.

Under the headline Television ratings: the British are coming, *Fortune* magazine reported last month: "The industry supports AGB's attack: 32 companies, including the three networks and big agencies like J Walter Thompson, have put \$850,000 behind a \$2.5 million test in Boston. 'A little competition would help us all' says Robert Maxwell, vice president of research at Home Box Office."

If the Boston test is a success,



Aspects of AGB: Bernard Audley, chairman, top; the Hangar Lane, north London premises and Doug Bacon, computer room manager in the heart of the works

AGB will be in a position to launch a full-scale attack on Nielsen's national ratings service and that would put it in a totally different financial league.

Fortune estimates that Nielsen generated about \$100 million in revenue from its national and local ratings services. AGB receives about \$3 million for its UK Broadcasters' Audience Research Board ratings service, the largest single research contract in the country.

AGB, as the Association of Market Survey Organizations, is far and away the biggest research company in Britain, with a turnover two and half times that of its nearest home-grown competitor. Only Nielsen comes close in size - £15.6 million compared with AGB's £4.6 million - and that is almost entirely made up of revenue from its retail index, the two-monthly audit of sales data (and sundry other information, such as stocks and prices) by which most marketing companies in the fast-moving consumer-goods field still measure themselves.

The rapid rise of AGB has stimulated other companies to band together or buy up rivals. Research International, a Unilever subsidiary, owns RBL and Marplan in this country (as well as many research companies overseas); MRB International, a subsidiary of the J Walter Thompson agency, owns BMRB, Mass-Observation and MBL; and Burke Marketing Research and Research Services now operate under the group umbrella of the Burke Research Services Group.

Mrs Dawn Mitchell, chairman and chief executive of Research Services, says: "We are experiencing a trend away from locally based, small companies primarily orientated towards solving ad hoc problems towards internationally linked, large enterprises which

HOW THE COMPANIES PERFORMED IN 1984

Order by turnover	AMSO company	Turnover £000s	1984/83 turnover change %
1	AGB Research plc (including RSGB)	24550	+12
2	A.C. Nielsen	15600	+7
3	NOP Group	9845	+35
4	RBL (Research International)	9739	+23
5	MRB UK Group	7028	+24
6	MIL Research Group	5720	+10
7	Burke Research Services Group	5592	+55
8	Millward Brown	5043	+31
9	Taylor Nelson Group	4839	+26
10	RSGB (included in AGB)	3430	+3
11	Marplan	3017	+32
12	SJM Research Partners Group	3004	+36
13	Business Decisions	2670	
14	MAS Survey Research	2850	+13
15	Harris Research Centre	2408	+16
16	Independent Research Bureau	2319	+19
17	MORI	2141	+28
18	PAS Research	2046	+24
19	Social Surveys (Gallup Poll)	2014	+3
20	Survey Research Associates	1997	
21	Gordon Simmons Research Group	1900	+33
22	Schickson Group	1316	+6
23	Martin Hamblin Research	1299	+28
24	The Research Business	1262	+46
25	Communication Research	1221	+21
26	CRAM	1089	+44
27	IFF Research	915	+26
Total		121743	+20

NB: All figures exclude non-research turnover, inter-company transfers within groups and consolidated results from overseas subsidiaries

advertising agency groups will want to present themselves to their clients as full-service communication and information groups - and as a result will want to buy up research companies.

Mr Goodyear cited the recent purchase of the American research firm Yankelovich Skelly & White by Saatchi & Saatchi, which is known to want of make a research purchase in the UK as well.

Other types of company taking an increased interest in the research business include public-relations firms, management consultants and accountancy practices, says Mr Goodyear.

At the same time, some research companies are seeking extra finance by going public. AGB's success has attracted the City in the ways of the research world and its potential for profits - as Saatchi & Saatchi has in advertising - and the company's international growth and investment have been largely funded by rights issues.

Two of the best-known firms to the general public, MORI and NOP, are planning to go public within the next 18 months and others are considering it. Both firms are known for their opinion poll work - the public tip of the research iceberg, accounting for perhaps two per cent of all such business. MORI's Bob Worcester has said he will be seeking a place on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Meanwhile, however, the eyes of the research world remain firmly on the battle between AGB and Nielsen, not just in Boston but in Europe and the Far East as well. Since its takeover by Dun & Bradstreet, Nielsen has started to shake off its "sleeping giant" reputation. With AGB inevitably finding it hard to maintain the rapid growth rate it has achieved in recent years - at times as high as 50 per cent - the battle is growing tougher and for this reason the Boston experiment is being viewed as crucial by both companies.

"Market research: Head counting becomes big business," by Philip Kleinman, is published by Comedia Publishing Group, price £15.

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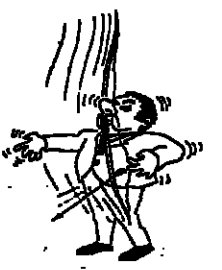
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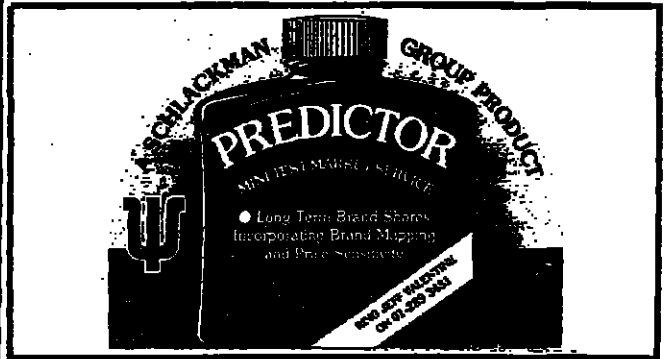
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AGB is in fact now a group of companies and its activities are no longer confined to market research - it has moved into related areas, such as publishing, exhibitions, computers and cable television consultancy. The turnover figure relates only to its UK research business. In 1983/4, its overall turnover was £80.2 million, an increase of 26.5 per cent on the previous year. Pre-tax profit was up 30 per cent at £7.5 million.

In addition to AGB's main research arm, AGB Consumer Research Audits of Great Britain, which handles the BARB contract and runs a number of retail research panels covering fields such as groceries, toiletries and electrical goods, research companies within the AGB empire include Research Surveys of Great Britain; AGB Index, which monitors the personal financial sector; AGB Cable and Viewdata; Industrial Market Research; and Audience Selection, a telephone interviewing company.

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MARKET RESEARCH/3

(SPECIAL REPORT)

Clipboard days are over

From page 14, col 8

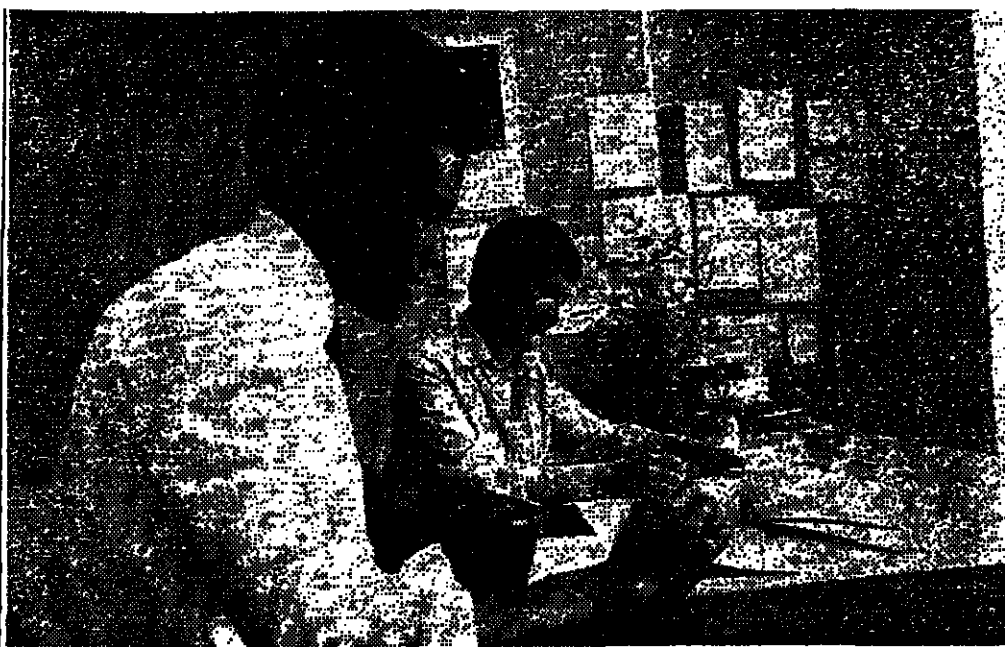
can be highly valuable for both retailer and manufacturer.

In Britain, progress with EPOS - or laser-scanning as it is often known - has been slower than expected, largely because retailers seem reluctant to invest in the costly check-out equipment until they perceive greater benefits from the system.

One problem is simply that, if introduced on a national scale, the sheer volume of data that would be unleashed would be extremely hard to handle. Nevertheless, all the leading grocery multiples are experimenting with EPOS systems and they are certain to play a much greater role in recording product sales in the next few years.

Such speed in measuring sales returns has great implications for the testing of new products and advertising campaigns. In the US a firm called Behaviour Scan has pioneered the technique of linking EPOS systems in a particular town to the local cable-television service, in order to measure the effect on sales of specific television commercials. Other research companies in the US and Europe, including Nielsen and AGB, are experimenting with variations on the technique.

Nielsen, as the dominant force in retail audits throughout the world, naturally has the closest interest in the development of EPOS, as it threatens to make its existing system redundant. Already it faces stiff competition from other research firms in the US that have moved in to process the mass of electronically-generated data. In Britain it has been appointed by the Article Numbering Association - the body which brings together the retailers and manufacturers on the issue of bar-coding on labels - as the "clearing-house" for EROS-generated data but it is not clear exactly what commercial status this gives Nielsen in the long run.



Planning a survey: The questionnaire must be perfectly targeted

The big switch and where it is paying off

Less than half the UK's expenditure on market research is now accounted for by the traditional consumer-goods companies. Though food and soft drinks firms still dominate the business with 22 per cent of Association of Market Survey Organizations companies' turnover, the balance is moving in favour of commercial sectors that have been less marketing-oriented in the past.

Pharmaceutical firms spent more on market research last year than alcoholic-drinks firms; the public services outspent the consumer durables firms; financial institutions spent more than firms producing household goods and tobacco.

This shift of emphasis was reflected in the papers presented at this year's Market Research Society conference in March. MRS represents individuals within the research business, as opposed to companies, and predates AMSO by 17 years. Its conference is the focal point of the industry's year and serves as a showcase for much of its best work, or at least that relatively small portion of it which is not

regarded as confidential by the clients who have commissioned it.

Papers presented this year included one by British Rail on research into the likely demand for new stations with large car parking facilities linked to major roads; another by the Post Office on the way research is increasingly used in all aspects of its business, from the development of new services and the evaluation of advertising campaigns to straightforward management information, and another by the management of the Royal Festival Hall into the composition and attitudes for its audiences in the light of the GLC's new open-foyer policy towards the South Bank concert halls, aimed at drawing up a new marketing strategy.

A medical-research firm presented the findings of a research programme commissioned by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry aimed at discovering how the industry was perceived by the public, opinion formers and the medical profession, with particular reference to subjects such as the cost of drugs to the National

Health Service, drug safety and side-effects, and the industry's marketing and promotional methods.

In the financial area, one of the fastest-growing sectors for research and marketing generally, the Midland Bank reported how research had helped it set up a new savings account for children. The financial communications agency Valin Pollen demonstrated how research had helped a stockbroking firm to develop a marketing strategy in the wake of the reform and increased competition of the Stock Exchange.

In the media area, which accounts for 10 per cent of all research spending, the *Mail on Sunday* and its advertising agency, Saatchi & Saatchi, showed how research had been used to help to get people to sample the new newspaper and when the editorial product did not live up to expectations, to revamp and relaunch it.

An advertising contractor demonstrated how research into reaction to advertisements on the sides of buses had helped to revitalize what had become an unfashionable medium.

An end to one-off surveys?

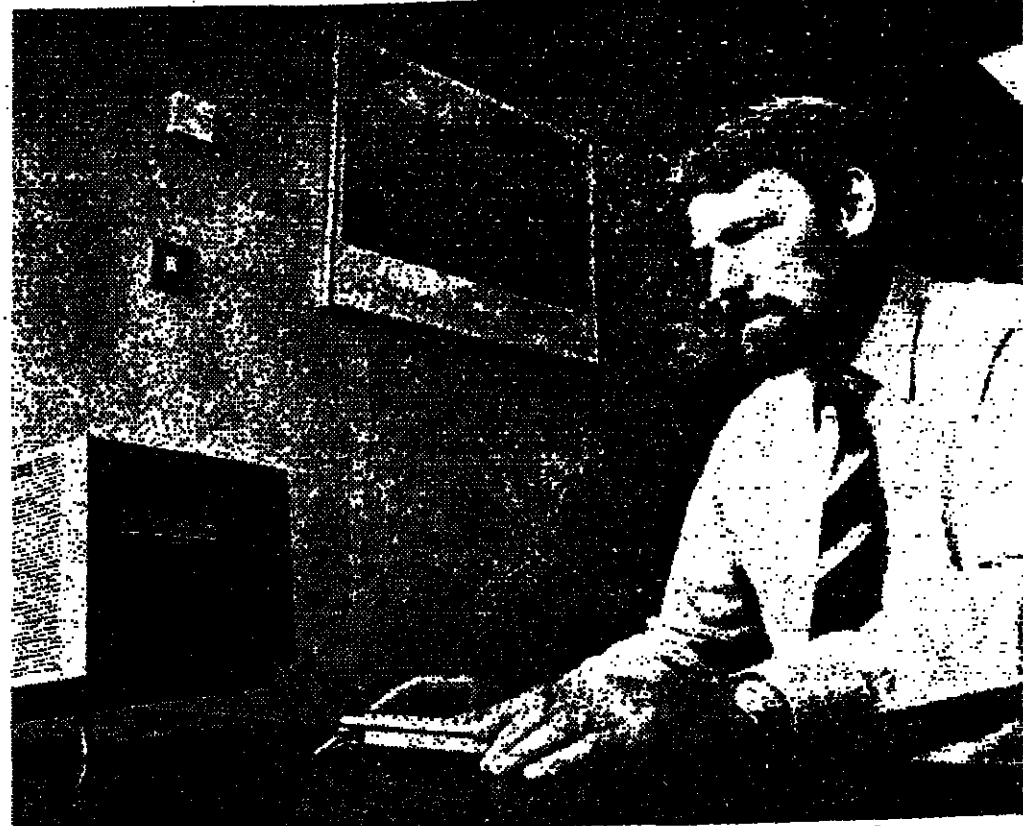
Almost all the papers presented at the Market Research Society conference used a combination of research techniques, amounting to full-scale research programmes rather than one-off surveys.

For example, the Midland programme involved group discussions with children and parents to discover attitudes to saving and features the new account should have, a second series of discussions designed to test the appeal of the proposed Griffin Savers account package; a telephone survey to discover who takes the decision to open such an account, the children or the parents, and a survey by questionnaire among parents and children aimed at assessing the likely demand for the savings account, particularly in relation to the gifts which would be used as incentives to launch the account.

The Midland case history is instructive because it shows the part research plays in developing products and services, by assessing the existing rival offerings and finding out from potential customers what additional features they want. This was particularly important in the case in that it was the last of the big four to develop a children's account and bankers believe that because people rarely switch banks, a child's savings account can lead to a lifetime's custom.

"The first issue we had to tackle was who should be the prime target market for the account", Peter Goudge and Frances Green of the Midland told the conference. "The possibilities were several - an account for the newly born, opened by parents or god-parents, an account for young children, an account for young teenagers or an account for those approaching adulthood."

Twelve group discussions were carried out with children aged 10 to 16 and parents of children aged 0 to 16 years, all in the ABC1 social classes, and the Midland found the attitudes



Public reaction via print-out: Computers are now a vital research tool

to savings accounts very encouraging.

Even the youngest respondents, those aged 10, were aware that accumulating money and looking after it was a good thing. Opening a bank account was seen as one of the conscious steps a child could take into adulthood but because banks were daunting places, any attempt to welcome young people through special schemes was welcomed.

Parents considered it their duty to teach children how to save but this task was made more difficult as the children became teenagers and more independent.

The researchers identified three distinct types of saving. The first was the "passive" account for young children, typically opened by a parent, whose own convenience was likely to be the major factor in the selection of the bank or building society. At the other end of the scale was the teenager with a source of income other than pocket money - probably a Saturday job - where the emphasis was as much on spending as saving, with the

child making frequent withdrawals or deposits.

"In between these two extremes a third group was identified which would offer the greatest potential for the marketing of a new savings account", said Goudge and Green. "This comprises children aged 10 and upward who are beginning to move away from the passive acceptance of the account chosen for them. While the parent continues in the role of adviser, the child therefore has more say and it is therefore necessary to appeal to both parent and child."

A key element within the packaging of the account would be incentives, as offered by all the existing children's savings accounts, ranging from the £5 given by Barclays in exchange for coupons, to the National Westminster's piggy banks.

The Midland said: "We were keen to see whether incentives could be more widely used to promote the account outside the home and especially in schools."

The group discussions revealed that both parents and children approved of incentives

provided they were sensible, useful and not flashy or too extravagant. Children were happy - even keen - to wear, use and carry goods bearing the logo or name of the company, provided it did not look childish and parents were particularly interested in items that would have to be bought anyway, for school or sport. By contrast, the interest rate paid on the account was seen as a less important factor.

As a result of the research, the Midland put together an account package aimed principally at 11 to 13 year-olds, although open to a wider age group, which would win parents' support. It would be launched in August 1984 and have a "back-to-school" emphasis, offering responsible incentives which were educationally oriented.

Its launch was supported by advertising on television and in the Press, including an item on *News At Ten* and recommendations by BBC *Breakfast Time* and *TV-am*. The target of 250,000 accounts by the end of 1985 was exceeded within two weeks.

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(SPECIAL REPORT)

MARKET RESEARCH/4

Where the TV ads are watched quite happily

In a comfortably furnished room in Surrey, a group of 11-year-old schoolgirls watches television with a market researcher who asks the girls' views on the programmes and commercials they have seen.

Which did they like best? Would a particular commercial make them more likely to buy the product advertised? Was it funny, or merely stupid?

A floor above, another group watches the schoolgirls as they discuss what they have seen. This group can see the girls and hear their comments on TV and also watch the programmes.

They can also assess what each girl thinks of each scene, observing their changes of attitudes as new presenters come on, as new commercials begin and as the material is screened a second or third time.

A videotape of the session is available for study afterwards. If this sounds like a sinister and far-fetched scene from a sub-Orwellian drama, rest assured that it is neither fiction nor invasion of privacy.

The schoolgirls knew that they were being filmed and recorded and took great pleasure when the session was over in pressing their noses against the glass wall.

This particular illustration of the market researchers' ingenuity took place at the Electronic Market Research Laboratory, a "state of the art" establishment that has opened at Woking, Surrey. Its facilities, say its backers, are unrivalled anywhere in the world.

The laboratory is a joint venture between British Direct Television, an independent production company known for its video magazine for doctors, British Medical Television (BMTV), and Glen Smith Associates, a research company whose chairman, Glen Smith, is managing director of the Children's Research Unit. The television company provides the studio facilities, and Smith the research expertise.

The laboratory is intended for what is known as "qualitative" research - interviews designed not to find out how many people think or behave in a particular way but to elicit more subtle variations in behaviour and attitude than can be gleaned from a conventional, highly structured survey.

Most qualitative research uses the group discussion technique, involving between four and a dozen members of a particular group of consumers, led by a skilled interviewer, who uses a conversational, informal technique to bring out the group's views. A single research project would probably involve between four and eight groups.

Group discussions have always been tape-recorded, if only to enable the interviewer to prepare a full and accurate report to the client. For some years, in addition, a few firms, mainly advertising agencies, have had research laboratories incorporating two-way mirrors, to enable those of their clients who want to watch group



The business picture show: Screen time for the results of a survey

discussions to do so without inhibiting the group.

More recently, the advent of video has meant that the client no longer needs to be there in person. The proceedings can be taped and he can view the tape at his leisure. More importantly, he can show the tape to other people - the sales force or the board - to back up comments made in the research.

The Electronic Market Research Laboratory has all the advantage that a videotaped group discussion offers - but it has an additional element that Mr Smith claims is unique and which enables researchers to monitor people's reactions to visual material in far greater detail than has been possible before.

The key to the laboratory is an electronic "voting handset", connected to a computer, which enables each person in the

group to register his or her feelings about what is on the screen.

The handset has five buttons - a rating scale ranging from, say, "very interested" to "not at all interested", or "very funny" to "not at all funny" - and the members of the group can change their vote as often as they like, whenever something alters on the screen which changes their opinion.

These votes are displayed on the videotape in the form of coloured lights - five for each member of the group, with green for "very good" and red for "not very good".

The idea is simple and it gives observers an instant picture of how a commercial or programme is being received, scene by scene. During the schoolgirls' session, there was no doubt which commercials were going down well. When the music in a soft-drink commercial rose to a crescendo, the screen was ablaze with green lights.

"It allows us instantly - to one-hundredth of a second - to pick up trouble spots in a commercial, or to identify its main strengths," says Mr Smith.

"But there are other, less obvious advantages of the system. In normal group discussions, there are some classic problem areas, especially in the case of children. We have to contend with group pressures and leadership influences. One strong character can sway a whole group.

"With this system, we control these variables because the voting is private and the system is the same for everybody.

"In addition, the system appears to encourage respondents to vote as accurately as possible and also during the discussion that follows to defend the way they voted. I think this is partly due to their knowledge that their votes are being fed directly into a computer, and partly due to their knowledge that they are being filmed.

The most obvious use for the laboratory is in the testing of television commercials, where group discussions are a conventional way of checking that the ads are on the right lines before screening them to the public, but Mr Smith sees many other applications for the system.

British Direct Television uses the Laboratory to pre-test all its programmes, including every edition of British Medical Television, and managing director Simon Curry says it means the programme can be more adventurous. "We can try things, and then pull them out if they don't work - but leave them in if they do," he says. "BMTV has become less conservative as a result. I'm convinced that other TV companies could benefit from the system."

A major clearing bank used the laboratory to find out how school leavers reacted to the brochure that they put out to careers departments. The verdict was very damning indeed - and the videotape brought this home in a way no written report could have done.

Mr Smith hopes the laboratory will soon be in use for pre-testing TV programmes, party political broadcasts, chairman's statements to shareholders and staff, and corporate advertising, as well as the conventional testing of commercials.

Naturally, the laboratory costs more than conventional group discussions - about £1,200 for an hour-long group, as opposed to the industry average of £600, but Mr Smith believes it is worth it.

Campaigns that can improve the quality of life

Market research is not merely used for commercial purposes. Often, the most challenging research projects are those conducted for social reasons and a notable example is the current government advertising campaign aimed at discouraging young people from trying heroin, which is one of the most heavily researched campaigns ever mounted in Britain.

"This was a case where everyone involved in the project - the DHSS, the Central Office of Information, the advertising agency and others - was genuinely concerned to get it right," says Robin Jones, head of research at the COI, which commissioned all the research for the campaign.

"I never once had to preach the value of research. Everyone was agreed that there was potential for such a campaign and that careful research was vital to establish people's attitudes, before even deciding whether or not to have an advertising campaign."

Since last November, the COI has commissioned four separate projects for the anti-heroin campaign, involving three research companies. The first, conducted by Andrew Irving Associates, was by far the largest and was aimed at helping to decide whether there was a place for a mass media advertising campaign.

The second, handled by the same agency, tested various advertising concepts. The third, conducted by Cragg Ross & Dawson, tested rough versions of the proposed TV and press ads. The fourth, handled by Research Bureau Ltd, is a three-

part evaluation of the campaign, aimed at assessing the impact of the advertising.

Mr Jones says: "The choice of the companies was very important because this is a highly emotive subject and it was vital that the researchers weighed up the evidence and did not allow themselves to be swayed by the pressures."

The COI is one of Britain's largest users of qualitative research, commissioning about 70 projects a year from 30 different companies. In each case, it approaches two or three firms for tenders. It was no surprise that in such a sensitive project as the anti-heroin research, it should end up appointing firms with great experience of government social campaigns.

Andrew Irving Associates has handled research into seat belts, drink and drive, and crime prevention campaigns, while Cragg Ross & Dawson has worked on campaigns for crime prevention and the Manpower Services Commission.

For the quantitative research, measuring awareness and change of attitude, RBL was equally experienced, having handled the tracking studies monitoring the effects of the drink-driving advertising since 1979, but it still had to pitch against two other firms, all three companies submitting 30-page



YOUR MIND ISN'T THE ONLY THING HEROIN DAMAGES

A major problem in a research project about drugs is how to get teenagers to talk about the subject. "You can't ask kids: 'Do you smoke pot?'" says Mr Jones.

"In one of the projects, we used a card-sorting technique. The cards contain questions on various types of behaviour, including drinking and taking drugs, and the respondents sort them into 'yes' and 'no'. It's a far less threatening task sorting a pack of cards than answering a direct question. Gradually you build their confidence and they are prepared to talk."

In another case, the researchers got their leads through youth workers and other "street contacts". Respondents were not required to give their names and were not told who the research was being conducted for, though by the time they were being asked to judge ads they guessed it was probably the Department of Health or another "well-meaning body".

In the frontline fight against heroin, advertisement from a campaign aimed at the young.

The first stage of the research highlighted a number of issues. Though some of the professionals interviewed thought that a mass media campaign would simply stimulate knowledge and could inadvertently glamorize heroin misuse, the researchers concluded from their discussions with teenagers that awareness of heroin was already so widespread that it was unlikely to be increased by advertising.

documents detailing how they would handle the research.

By contrast, Yellowhammers, the advertising agency which is handling the campaign, is a newcomer to the government roster but its presentation for the account, in competition with three more experienced agencies, was impressive enough to win it the business. The fact that it had great experience of advertising to young people - its accounts include Time Out, the HMV Shop and Greenpeace - was significant.

Before the Government invited tenders for the advertising account, however, it had to decide whether or not such a campaign should be mounted at all and research played a key role in this decision.

No fewer than 44 group discussions and 70 in-depth interviews were conducted among teenagers, the parents of teenagers and professionals such as family doctors, youth workers, policemen and secondary school teachers. The interviews were carried out in London, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, the West Midlands conurbation, Reading and Bristol.

The teenagers who took part fell into one of three categories: Those "less at risk", who had never misused drugs, were not living in areas of widespread misuse and who had no friends who were users. Those "more at risk", who were users of soft drugs, friends of misusers or living in areas of misuse. Those who are "heroin users", lapsed users, recreational users, "one-time" trialists or chronic misusers.

They considered that the campaign should concentrate on heroin. It was important that the campaign should be aimed at those "at risk", without alarming or confusing secondary audiences and that its tone was carefully handled to avoid disbelieved and rejection; any message with overtones of authority was likely to be counter-productive.

One of the key findings produced by all three stages of the qualitative was the importance of friends - rather than "pushers" - offering teenagers their first trial of heroin. "However strong people's resistances to heroin might be before the offer, these seem to disintegrate rapidly when heroin is offered by apparently unharmed friends," notes the COI Research Unit's report on one project.

As a result, the press advertisements refer specifically to friends: "If a friend offers you heroin, use your brain while you still can."

Question Masters

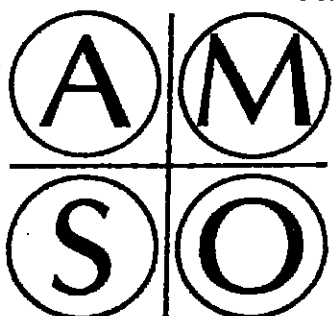
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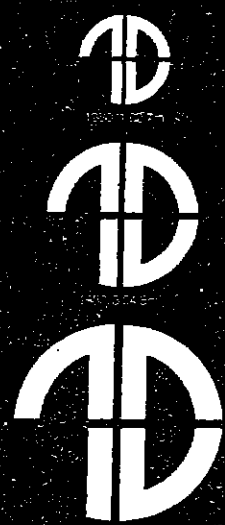
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Equities firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 13. Dealings End, Today. \$ Contango Day, June 3. Settlement Day, June 10.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000

**Claims required for
+41 points**

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

[illegible]

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426	Wagon	47	34.3	54	110
444	Washington (A)	630	84	37	114
528	Westbough	340	1	..	84	37	114

PROPERTY

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[illegible]

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43	Hacking Postscript	135		71	78	65
49	Ingram (Mark)	90				
121	Jarvis (S)	90		14	11	
49	Leach	170		4.0	8.7	7.6
75	Lyles (R)	48		7.9	6.6	7.0
67	MacKay (Hugh)	85		0.1	0.3	1.4
17	Mason	67		7.3	11.7	10.4
126	Neumann Mimi	171		8.8	7.8	10.8
17	Noss (Carney)	214		0	2.4	2.8
96	Parkeed A			0	4.4	3.0
100	RELT	100		7.1		
100	Shaw Carpins	100		8.9	8.7	3.6
118	Shaw	39		5.9	3.7	8.4
118	Strider	124		3.8	8.8	8.8
30	Stratshaw (R)			4.7		

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صبرنا من الرجل

THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Stock Exchange's topical answer to Reuters

Hand-picked non-members of the Stock Exchange are to be allowed to use the market's Topic information service from the beginning of July for trading international shares.

The move appears deliberately aimed at countering the threat posed by the planned Reuters-Instinet network which will be offering traders a service in US equities and American Depository Receipts from July.

The Stock Exchange Council has agreed to allow non-member market-makers which express a firm intention of joining the exchange when the rules are loosened in October next year, to advertise their bid and offer prices in foreign equities on a new Topic service.

Non-member dealers in currency options are already allowed to trade under the auspices of the Stock Exchange and the latest move is seen by observers as a further breach of the membership dam.

One non-member has already expressed a firm interest in the new service and the Stock Exchange is in touch with eight others. Market-makers competing bid and offer prices in foreign stocks will be displayed alongside each other from July in a format which will be similar to the SEAQ trading support system being planned for domestic equities.

The Stock Exchange yesterday also took the wraps off another Topic service which will offer real time prices in some 1,600 North American stocks at a cost of £2,400 a year per Topic terminal.

Mr George Hayter, the Stock Exchange's director of information services, said he saw the new international share dealing service as a run-in, both to the wider membership of the market that is envisaged and for the SEAQ trading support system.

Mr Hayter has indicated that SEAQ would be on line in a year's time and would cost up to £5 million to develop. But he described as "a misconception" reports that the automated trading system Mantis, which the exchange plans to graft onto SEAQ, would cost between £20 million and £30 million. His estimate is that this later series of services will cost between £7 million and £8 million over three years.

Both yesterday's new Topic services are strongly focused on the international arena, indicating the demand that exists for and the trend towards global market systems.

The Stock Exchange is holding discussions with Reuters on areas of co-operation in securities trading. Matters under discussion include international order routing and the display of SEAQ price information on Reuters terminals outside Britain. But Mr Hayter described as "just wrong" suggestions that Reuters could provide a trading support which would be a viable alternative to that being developed by the Stock Exchange, he believes there is a huge difference between the obligations of a central market and what can be provided by a commercial vendor of information such as Reuters or Instinet.

Presumably, if Reuters does become a significant trading support system outside the Stock Exchange, it will have to apply to the Securities and Investments Board for recognition as a self-regulating authority as well.

Rain on steppes hits world capital flows

All the signs are that the Soviet Union will import a record 53 million tonnes of grain during the crop year to the beginning of October 1985. According to the International Wheat Council the previous highest figure was 46 million tonnes recorded in the 1981-2 season. Tentative indications for the coming crop year suggests that imports may fall, but it is clear that, far from becoming self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs, the Soviet Union's dependence on foreign supply is a permanent feature of its economy.

The impact, however, is not confined to the East. Healthy though its foreign exchange positions may be, the Soviet Union prefers to finance these huge imports from current revenue. The result is that world prices of oil and gold, the country's two main hard currency earners, come under further downward pressure. Soviet gold sales so far this year may have been as much as 100 tonnes, half the total for the whole of 1984, and the pricing of Urals crude is a key indicator of the state of the oil market.

The deficiencies, therefore, of Soviet agriculture - chiefly a combination of unrealistically high plan targets for grain output and a political commitment to provide meat, which is grain fed on the hoof - are now so great as to upset critical markets way beyond the Iron Curtain. It was no accident that last year's disaster at the Wozchod Bank was caused by taking position against the dollar. The United States agreed to sell the Russians all they need, and so reduce the unpredictability. But the latest figures show that the rain on the steppes is still an important influence on international capital flows.

Protesters in force at RTZ meeting

Shareholders attending yesterday's annual meeting of the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation were presented with an alternative annual report, paid for by the Greater London Council. Earlier this year, the GLC announced that it was selling RTZ shares held by its pension funds and worth around £4 million. Now it is supporting the efforts of Partisans - People Against RTZ - who have been loudly critical of the company at recent meetings and who have produced the alternative report.

Yesterday the board was subjected to the now customary barrage of questions on its treatment of Aborigines, its attitude towards apartheid and its involvement in uranium mining. Sir Alistair Frame, presiding over his first annual meeting as chairman of RTZ, dealt with the questions and the heckling for more than two hours. At one stage the protesters demanded a minute's silence "out of respect for all those people RTZ has killed". Sir Alistair replied that he would be relieved to have a break.

He also conceded that he and selected members of the board would agree to a meeting with the protesters. "If the whole damn lot of you want to come you can", he said. But when he added that he did not want television cameras to be present, his invitation seemed to lose its appeal.

By no means all his critics were members of Partisans, a generally youthful group who, when they stood up to propose themselves as a proxy board for the company, did not appear to win the approval of the more conventional shareholders at the meeting. They looked as if they would have been at home in many a GLC-funded environment. But sombre-suited middle-aged Terence Dorrer liked the conventional attendee at many an annual meeting - there to listen, not to speak. Instead, in his role as chairman of the Southern Africa Working Group of the United Nations Association, he too was there to argue that RTZ could be acting illegally in its dealings with Namibia and its refusal to recognize the United Nations Council there.

"Massive compensation could be claimed, in due course, in respect of these illegal activities", he warned.

Not for the first time, Sir Alistair replied that counsel had advised him that RTZ was not acting illegally and would not be liable for compensation.

Despite a 16 per cent increase in profits, the chairman's lot was not a happy one. "Communists", spluttered a prosperously-dressed woman as she swept out. "What a disgusting way to behave at an annual meeting. I shall sell my shares immediately." Such is the lot of the modern, model multinational.

OECD predicts 3 1/4 % growth but little hope for jobless

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Growth in the industrial world will be as much as 3 1/4 per cent this year, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's summer Outlook, released today, with Britain achieving the same growth rate.

The 24-nation OECD has revised its forecast upwards since last winter, but is still predicting slower growth next year, with unemployment rising to 12 million in "sluggish" Europe. However, it expects inflation to stabilize at an international average of 4 1/2 per cent.

The "resilience" of the British economy is demonstrated by its continuing growth despite the miners' strike, according to the OECD. But there is "little likelihood of any significant reduction in unemployment".

The "main risks" in British

economic policy are identified by the OECD as stemming from high interest rates or wage acceleration, either of which might depress growth below the forecast and lead to higher unemployment.

Internationally, the OECD believes the outlook is "favourable in a number of key respects", with "more modest and probably more sustainable" growth in the United States (around 3 per cent a year) and an "improvement in the underlying macroeconomic conditions" in Europe. However, it points to such "unsatisfactory features" as high budget deficits in the United States, volatile exchange rates, growing trade tensions, and unemployment at a 50-year record in Europe.

The Outlook calls for an "effective programme of supply-side action", embracing

OECD FORECASTS

% change in:	1984	1985	1986
Real GNP			
United States	6.8	3 1/4	2 1/4
Japan	5.8	5 1/4	4 1/4
Germany	2.8	2 1/4	2 1/4
France	1.7	1 1/4	2 1/4
Britain	2.8	3 1/4	2 1/4
Total OECD	4.9	3 1/4	2 1/4
Prices			
United States	3.8	3 1/4	3 1/4
Japan	4.1	4 1/4	4 1/4
Germany	4.7	4 1/4	4 1/4
France	4.1	4 1/4	4 1/4
Britain	4.1	4 1/4	4 1/4
Total OECD	4.1	4 1/4	4 1/4

GNP/GDP deflators

% change in:	1984	1985	1986
GNP/GDP deflators			
United States	3.8	3 1/4	3 1/4
Japan	4.1	4 1/4	4 1/4
Germany	4.7	4 1/4	4 1/4
France	4.1	4 1/4	4 1/4
Britain	4.1	4 1/4	4 1/4
Total OECD	4.1	4 1/4	4 1/4

trade policies, a check on industrial subsidies, a reduction in regulation that restricts competition (particularly in Europe) improvements in financial markets to provide new companies with access to funds, tax simplification and labour market policies. The Outlook states baldly that there has been "insufficient progress".

in reform of labour markets during the past year.

The organization skates delicately round the question of policies to expand demand, suggesting this may be needed "once the supply side is potentially responsive". It points to the risk of a world slowdown as United States growth slows, and unequivocally calls for "structural policies" to make the European economies more flexible.

● The US Government's index of leading indicators of economic trends fell 0.2 per cent in April, the Commerce Department announced in Washington yesterday, adding to recent signs of a slowdown. The drop came after a 0.1 per cent rise in March and was the fifth decline in the past year. It was more evidence that the economy is slowing sharply from the robust recovery pace of the past two years.

Boots profits up 15% to £190m

By Clare Doble

Boots, the high street retailer, yesterday reported profits 15 per cent higher at £190.3 million before tax. This continues the trend of booming profits among leading retailers.

The new Boots chairman, Mr Robert Gunn, said: "The year was one of 'considerable change and achievement'. Huge capital spending on the stores helped boost retailing profits from £82.7 million to £108.7 million. Mr Gunn emphasized that he was keen to make acquisitions.

There were complete refits at 15 of the 1,025 stores. And a number of shops in shops have been introduced into the stores. There are now 40 optical centres against only 6 at the start of last year. At the end of the year 159 stores were specializing in food centres selling diabetic, health and chilled foods and there were 148 cook shops, selling pots and pans (and other kitchen hardware).



Robert Gunn: keen to make acquisitions

More optical centres and food centres are planned.

Of the total £93 million capital spent last year, £52 million went on the shops. Retailing profits were boosted by a Department of Health and Social Security review of labour and overhead costs.

Adjusting for this the underlying increase was 13.8 per cent, half of which reflected increased volume.

At the year end the company had £118 million cash.

Mr Gunn would like Boots to buy a pharmaceuticals company, operating in the health care market. He stressed yesterday the year-end cash balances of £118 million left the group well-placed.

Interest and unallocated items contributed £8.5 million to the pretax figure, up from £3.6 million. There were £8.9 million (£16.5 million) profits from property disposals.

The industrial division, taking in Boots' pharmaceutical operation, raised profits by 7 per cent to £64.6 million. That reflects a slight slowdown in the second half.

The present year will be affected by the expiry of royalty payments on Boots' leading drug, Ibuprofen with effect from today.

Peachey to acquire Lloyds sites

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Peachey Property Corporation, the trading company which is converting part of Carnaby Street into a valuable retail asset, is to buy most of Lloyds Bank Property Company's portfolio for £28.2 million.

If Peachey's shareholders agree the company will end up with 18 of the 27 properties in the Lloyds portfolio, independently valued at £32.5 million. The acquisition is to be paid for by a mixture of shares and cash, which minimizes the net loss of earnings to the company.

A vendor placing of 5.5 million ordinary shares will be made by S G Warburg, the merchant bank, for £13.59 million with the remaining £14.60 million coming from Peachey's own resources.

Borrowings will go up as a result of the deal but will be offset by the £9.25 million Peachey realized from the sale of its interest in the Churchill Hotel in London. The immediate effect on Peachey's net asset value will be neutral: it will rise 1p to 30.5p per share. However, in the long term it will benefit from the deal.

The portfolio has the potential for upgrading and lease restructuring with reversions due over the next few years. Peachey's portfolio, due to be revalued for year-end results next month, is worth 145 million, taking in the Lloyds Bank property.

A rent review is imminent on one of the largest buildings in the portfolio, a 69,000 sq ft office block in Basingstoke, Hampshire, let to the Government's Property Services Agency. Rents in Basingstoke are rising and it looks as if Peachey can expect a substantial uplift in income on the review. The company is forecasting profits of £10 million at the year-end.

D'Abo bid accusation

A dispute broke out last night on the eve of the first closing date for the contested bid for Selincourt, the fashion group, by her Stormgard backers.

Mrs D'Abo's bid announced that they were entitled to pull out of the bid because they had discovered that Selincourt was in breach of its borrowing limits. They also claimed that the problems at its former French offshoot, Tricosa, were worse than they had been led to believe.

However, Mrs D'Abo said they had decided to go ahead because the deterioration in Selincourt's position made the offer more attractive.

This met with a swift response from Selincourt's finance director, Mr Roger Barklett, said: "This is a gross distortion of the facts, designed to frighten our shareholders. If we had been in breach of our borrowing limits we would not be allowed to trade."

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Bid raling

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade Secretary, has decided not to refer to the Monopolies Commission the proposed acquisition by Initial, the towel and cleaning group, of Smarts Group, another cleaning company. The decision was taken despite the recent Monopolies Commission report recommending, on the grounds of excessive market concentration, that the BET bid for Initial be blocked.

Mr Fred Bushell is resigning as a director of Group Lotus, the Norfolk sportsman manufacturer, with compensation of £47,000, severing the last link between the company and its founder, the late Mr Colin Chapman.

Argentine delay

Argentina's main creditor banks are now due to meet in New York on Monday. The meeting set for yesterday was called off this week by the Argentine negotiators to allow them more time on protracted talks with the International Monetary Fund.

Barclays boost

Barclays Bank has attracted £1 billion into its Higher Rate Deposit Account launched in March. Deposits are totalling over £15 million to £20 million a day. About a half is thought to be new money and the rest switching of existing deposits from other accounts.

The pound gained ground on the foreign exchange markets yesterday and the sterling index closed 0.6 up at 79.9. High relative interest in Britain contributed to the pound's strength against both the dollar and European currencies. In London sterling ended 1 cent up at \$1.2742.

ICI bond issue

S. G. Warburg and J. Henry Schroder Wagg yesterday completed arrangements for the issue by ICI of an initial tranche of £75 million 1 1/4 per cent bonds 1995 at an issue price of 100 per cent.

Reed to sell Twyford subsidiary

By Patricia Wheatcroft

Reed International is to sell its building products companies, including the Twyford subsidiary, to a group of investors. The main board directors, Mr Michael Collins, is hoping to buy out part of the business. The sales could realize more than £100 million.

Reed says that the sale will be the last of a programme of large disposals, leaving the company able to concentrate on publishing, paint and DIY, packaging and paper. This year the company has pulled out of printing its paper merchandising business and the wallpaper business. Last year Mr Robert Maxwell bought Mirror Group Newspapers from Reed for £100 million.

The building products companies had sales of £194 million last year and made trading profits of £8.9 million.

The whole group is expected to have made profits of about £115 million in the year to March.

The chief executive of Reed, Mr Leslie Carpenter says that he expects to obtain a higher price for the companies by selling them separately than as a single entity.

Last year Reed invested £15 million in the division, but buyers may have to invest more.

Mr Michael Collins is the chief executive of the building products group and he is now trying to raise the backing to enable him to buy at least a part of it. Other parts may be sold to overseas buyers.

Koreans to undercut Japan on robots

From David Watts, Seoul

A South Korean company is challenging Japanese dominance in the market for cheaper industrial robots with a machine that it estimates will undercut Japanese manufacturers by up to 30 per cent.

The company Daewoo Corporation, refuses to divulge a price for its product but is already taken its first order, from Pohang Iron and Steel, which will be filled in June.

The robot challenge broadens South Korean competition with Japan which already encompasses cars, television sets, video recorders and ships.

Daewoo expects to make further deliveries from its first production batch to other Korean customers this year, and will launch the robot on the international market in June at a Detroit exhibition and in September in Hannover.

The robot's arm functions on five axes and can be used in car manufacture, frame welding or in the manufacture of construction equipment and rolling stock.

Daewoo has been using its robots in its own plants for almost a year and is ready to take on well-established Japanese manufacturers such as Fuji-Fanuc and Hitachi. In the past, Japanese makers turned down cooperation with Daewoo.

Now the company hopes that its challenge will persuade the Japanese otherwise. "The only way you get the Japanese to cooperate is when you start to compete", Mr Youngkook Kang, senior executive managing director, who developed the new robot, called Nova 10,

Improved performance in 1984

In the 1984 Report & Accounts Chairman Sir David Orr says:

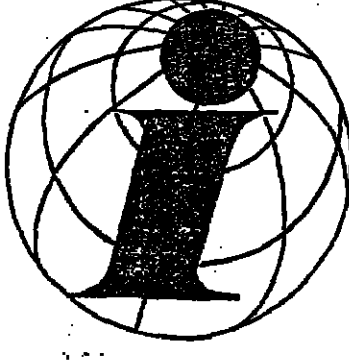
"The actions we have taken to improve the profitability of the Group, to strengthen the management and to identify and to develop those activities which we felt had potential for higher than average growth are starting to bear fruit..."

	1984	1983
Profit before tax	£78.9m	£53.0m
Earnings per share	29.1p	13.2p
Dividend	18.15p	18.15p

And the outlook for 1985

"The Group improved its performance in 1984 and the Board believes this improvement can be maintained"

Sir David Orr



Inchcape

Copies of the 1984 Annual Report may be obtained from The Public Relations Department, Inchcape PLC, 40 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8EU.

Westland offers bid defence

By Our City Staff

Westland, the troubled helicopter company which is the subject of an unwelcome £89 million bid from Mr Alan Bristow's Bristow Rotocraft company, has published its defence document asking shareholders to give it more time to come up with a better deal.

Westland argues that Bristow's offer would dilute the value of existing shareholders' interests giving them only 55.64 per cent of the capital in the company they now own.

It also disputes that Bristow Rotocraft's investors hold 16.7 per cent of Westland. Bristow and Mr Bristow's family trust have only 2.7 per cent of the company, according to Westland.

Westland is looking for a white knight to provide financial protection from the cyclical nature of the helicopter industry and one which will give it worldwide marketing outlets.

The Technologies Group in Westland is a highly saleable asset and contributed £5.23 million to the company's interim pretax profits of £4.85 million to last March. But Westland has deferred plans to float it off pending future developments.

Computer group plans £100m listing

Two former IBM engineers will become multi-millionaires when the computer leasing business they set up just eight years ago comes to the stock market with a price tag of more than £100 million.

Mr Phil Coussens and Mr John Henderson, both aged 40, run IBL which rents and sells new and second hand IBM

equipment to a range of customers in Britain and Europe. IBL has 15,000 items of equipment on lease to customers in more than 1,000 locations. Last year, it earned profits of £7.5 million.

IBL is offering 19 million shares for sale, through Barclays Merchant Bank, Rowe and

Pitman is the broker to the issue and dealings are expected to start on June 12. Elken, Norway's second largest industrial company and the western world's leading supplier of the microchip component silicon, is to be listed on the London stock market from today.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1,004.6 (+5.5)
FT-A All Share	854.87 (+1.92)
FT Govt Securities	81.94 (+0.22)
FT-SE 100	1,314.7 (+2.7)
Bargains	22.845
Dataseam USM	109.78 (+0.14)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,303.08 (+0.11)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,790.27 (+23.10)
Hong Kong	
Hong Kong	1,621.88 (23.95)
Hang Seng	210.5 (-0.3)
Sydney: AO	874.5 (-3.5)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1321.5 (+11.4)
Busseler	
Genera	349.51 (+6.08)
Parif: GAC	232.6 (+2.4)
Zurich	
SKA General	357.30 (+2.30)

GOLD

London Value:	
am \$315.00pm \$314.80	
close \$314.50 (246-246.50)	
New York:	
Comex (June) \$314.55	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Energy Capital	52 +10
Magnolia Eps	29 +7
Maxiprint	34 +3
Raine Inds	22 1/2 +2
Sound Diffusion	105 +8
Ti Group	288 +10
H.C. Singby	118 +8
Duport	37 1/2 +2 1/2
MY Dart	28 +2
Beecham Grp	380 +15
Amsted	34 +4
McLeod Russel	341 +11
First National Fin Corp	100 1/2 +3
Our Price	495 +15
FALLS:	
Osborne	85 -15
Lon Overseas Fr	12 -1 1/2
Lytle Shipping	12 -1 1/2
Randwy	8 1/2 -1
Audio Fidelity	34 -4
Burnett & Hallamsh	40 -6
Xylynx	9 -1
T. Clarke	33 -3
Jones Woodhead	33 -3
Hellier Bar	53 -3

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: £1.2742 (+0.0103)	
DM: £3.2254 (+0.0284)	
Sfr: £3.5105 (+0.33105)	
FF: £11.9852 (+0.0962)	
Yen: £20.45 (+2.05)	
2 Index: 79.9 (-0.5)	
New York:	
\$: £1.2735	
DM: £3.0893	
\$ Index: 145.0 (-0.4)	
INTEREST RATES	
London:	
Bank Base: 12 1/2 -12 1/2	
3-month Interbank: 12 1/2 -12 1/2	
3-month eligible bills: 11 1/2 -11 1/2	
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate 10.00%	
Federal Funds 7 1/4 -7 1/4	
3-month Treasury Bills 7.24 -7.20	
Long bond yield 10 1/4 -10 1/4	

COMMODITIES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates		Market rates	
Ship's name	Rate	Ship's name	Rate
New York	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	1 month	3 months
Montreal	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	0.50-0.50c per	1.51-1.51c per
Amsterdam	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	0.50-0.50c per	1.51-1.51c per
Brussels	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	2-1/2c per	6.50c per
London	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	2-1/2c per	6.50c per
Dublin	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	4-20m per	12-1-14.00c per
Antwerp	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	18m per 10c disc	40c per
Lisbon	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	30-40m per	300-1100c disc
Madrid	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	per dry disc	2-3rd disc
Milan	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	per dry disc	2-3rd disc
Oslo	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	2-1/2c per	7-10c per
Stockholm	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	30-40m per	10-11c per
Genoa	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	18-19c per	42-44c per
Venice	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	18-19c per	42-44c per
Zurich	\$1,275.00-1,278.00	6-8c per	6-8c per

1.9157-1.9232
4784-4826

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Turnover 18,280

income tax expense of \$48,338 (\$0.524), including surplus on disposal of properties of 58 (3). Tax 320 (395). EPS^a excluding property surplus, 5.435 (7.23); including property surplus, 5.889 (7.27). The important factor in the profit fall was a sharp deterioration in the beer-at-home contribution. This prompted

50 mat., ad. 100 mat., ad.
income tax expense of \$48,338 (\$0.524), including surplus on disposal of properties of 58 (3). Tax 320 (395). EPS^a excluding property surplus, 5.435 (7.23); including property surplus, 5.889 (7.27). The important factor in the profit fall was a sharp deterioration in the beer-at-home contribution. This prompted

before after
\$114,120 (\$133,705), and loss before and after tax \$55,744 (\$0,372). Loss per share was 4.6¢ (4.16p), fully diluted 4.26p (3.85p). Bookings for the forthcoming season remain at same level as last year.

• The annual meet-
demand had been

at the higher end of Freeman's expectations from the start of the present season and its policy of carrying a greater level of stock has enabled it to meet more of that demand than at this time last year. The consequent rise in sales during the first four months has more than offset the adverse effect on margins caused by fluctuating exchange rates and the rise in domestic rates.

● **SMITH BROTHERS:** Smith Brothers, the stockholder-owned company, reported a profit of \$5.07 million, or 1.2¢ a share, on sales of \$1.1 billion in the year to April 26. The loss was more than accounted for by sales in its international dealing subsidiary, Smith New Court. That company is now profitable and Smith Brothers' chairman, Mr Tony Lewis, says that

the company has started well. The final dividend is 4.5p, making 6p for the year, an increase of 20 per cent.

Smith Brothers has links with NIM, the National Industrial Management Group, and the latter's director Geoffrey "Gee" Layton, the broker in charge of preparation for the "Big Bang" in 1990.

● **BOASE MASSIMI POLLITI:** The company has agreed to provide a £500,000 loan to the bank, backed up by £500,000 of its own funds. The bank will also take a 10 per cent shareholding in the company.

Exchange Telegraph, the pub-

● **BROOKE BOND:** Brooke Bond is planning to rationalize its loan structure by ceasing to use convertible debentures as the form of listed stock. Currently \$442,241 of the 8% per cent convertible stock, 1981/92, is outstanding.

charged and secured by floating charges on the assets of BGC and certain of its British subsidiaries. After the recent disposal by BGC of Barlows (Butchers) and Leonard Baxter, the outstanding stock is further secured by a fixed charge in favour of the Trustees over a deposit of about £3.5 million. The stock will be repaid on the following terms: for every £1 nominal, £1.50 in cash and 10p in shares.

JOHN PERKINS MEATS: Adams Investment Trust has acquired an interest for sale 2.42 million ordinary shares in Perkins-
£25.3 per ordinary share of the issuing company.
Messrs V. Adams and **Y. Perkins** are non-executive directors.

...the chairman Mr. A. K. S. ...
...frankly said that, as already stated, ...
...the group is in a strong position for ...
...the future, but the first half of this ...
...year would show a downturn in ...
...profit for certain specific and ...
...short-term reasons.

Commodity	Quantity	Price	Contract
Abeyaratne 10p Ord (85a)	176	182	
Abeyaratne Property 20p Ord (172)	176	182	
Abeyaratne Communications 5p Ord (125a)	176	182	
Abeyaratne Steel Sheet 51 Ord (165a)	176	182	
Abeyaratne Steel Sheet 51 Ord (130)	176	182	
Abeyaratne Aerospace 50p Ord (275) 2xpd	225+4		
Abeyaratne Iron 20p Ord (84a)	225+4		
Abeyaratne Print Solutions 5p Ord (200)	225+4		
Abeyaratne Aluminum 10p Ord (171)	225+4		
Abeyaratne Glass 10p Ord (800a)	225+4		
Abeyaratne Group 5p Ord (125a)	225+4		

[illegible]

Re

RECENT ISSUES		Closing Price		Lending Rates	
Suburban 100 Acre (1904)	104	ABN Bank	12.5%		
Adams Property 200 Acre (172)	182	Adsm & Company	12.5%		
Adams Communications 50 Acre (1254)	170-1	Burdays	12.5%		
Adams Steel 21 Acre (1594)	112	BCCI	12.5%		
Adams Hill 200 Acre (120)	220-1	Citibank Savings	12.5%		
Adams Aerospace 500 Acre (273) 22nd	98	Consolidated Corp.	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (184)	274-2	Continental Trust	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	195-2	Co-operative Bank	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	205	C. Moore & Co	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	180-1	Clyde & Co.	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	114-1	Midland Bank	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	90-2	Nat Westminster	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	185	TSB Bank	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	185	Williams & Glyn's	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	134-1	Citibank NA	12.5%		
Adams Hill 100 Acre (177)	134-1				

4

TEMPUS

Refits at Boots pay off at the counters

Each week half of all British women, and 20 million people in all, visit a Boots shop. But they do not spend enough when inside. The average expenditure is probably £2, or half that of Marks and Spencer. Even so, Boots shoppers spent enough last year for the retailing side to lift underlying profits by 14 per cent. An NHS price review clipped in helpfully so that the stated profit increase was 31 per cent, to a divisional total of £109 million.

That must be a testament to Boots' strategy in reviving the flagging image of its 1,025 shops. It carried out 15 complete refits last year and opened several shops within a few days. The refits have been concentrated in the biggest shops, leaving 850 or so unchanged. A policy for what is left has yet to be developed. The other spending commitment is that Boots has plenty of money - £118 million to spend. But it has had little success in getting rid of it. It would, however, clearly love to make a pharmaceuticals acquisition.

Meanwhile, interest on the cash pile contributed £8.5 million to the £181.1 million pretax total (before £8.9 million property profits). So far discoveries like Glaxo's Zantac have eluded Boots' pharmaceutical side and profits from the industrial division last year rose by only 7 per cent to £64.6 million. With the patent on its aspirin running out today and intense price-cutting in the US, the short-term outlook is unexciting.

This year should see profits of £210 million before property profits making the price-earnings ratio 11, with the shares at 194p. The shares will probably follow in the wake of the stores sector until the twin spending issues are sorted out.

IBL

Would you buy a used computer from IBL? Lots of businesses apparently do, and find the experience profitable. So, too, does the computer leasing group, which by dint of its financial backing has been able to buy the best of the best. IBL's profits since 1980 from less than nothing to £7.5 million. Hence the offer for sale, with 19 million shares at 140p each.

Selincourt

Selincourt, the clothing manufacturer, had become a prime takeover target. Hard hit by the recession, heavy restructuring costs had slowed its eventual recovery. The inevitable bid, from Mrs Jennifer d'Abo fronting an investment "shell" company, Stormard, however, gave Selincourt's chairman, Sir David Nicolson, and his team an unexpected opportunity to mount a potent defence. Faced with an assault from such a relative newcomer, they quite properly called into question Mrs d'Abo's track record, chiefly at Ryman, the stationery chain she bought from the Burton Group in 1981 backed largely by the same institutions funding the latest approach.

Quite properly, too, they have queried her ability to apply her "design" flair to a totally different field. Quite properly, too, they emphasize that the cash element in the bid of 26p a share, against yesterday's market price of 29p - undervalues the potential of the business. But who will be to unlock that potential? Faced with the first closing date for the offer today, Selincourt shareholders are unlikely to sell so early, especially as a counter-offer is always likely.

Ethylene shortage gives US fillip to ICI

By Derek Pain and Alison Eadie

American investors are once again chasing Imperial Chemical Industries, spurred by the thought that Britain's best-value share looks cheap and the possibility of a profits boost from a hat-trick of ethylene plant accidents in Europe.

Yesterday the shares gained 8p to 778p, making a 25p gain this week. The transatlantic buying has helped the shares resist the recent downward pull of a strong pound. An ethylene shortage has arisen as a result of accidents at plants in Sicily, Sweden and West Germany. About 1.25 million tonnes of capacity is now out of commission.

Consequently the price of ethylene, a raw material for making plastic, has soared by as much as \$50 a tonne. ICI, as an ethylene producer, should benefit from this shortage which could also harden other plastic-related prices.

The transatlantic interest in ICI helped the FT 30-share index to rise above the 1,000 points mark again. It climbed 5.5 points to 1,004.6 points. The more broadly-based FT-SE

share index closed 2.7 points higher at 1,314.7 points. Government stocks had a good day, registering gains of up to 2 1/2% on the back of the stronger pound.

Beecham Group, figures next month, was another blue chip to benefit from American buying. It was at one time 18p harder at 383p.

The BOC Group was helped by an investment talk-in at a leading broking house. The shares at one time gained 5p to 312p.

Prudential Corporation improved 8p to 661p as Wood Mackenzie, the broker, put the share back on its buy list.

The same broker also helped Amstrad, the hi-fi group created by Mr Alan Sugar, to go higher. The share rose 4p to 64p. Wood Mackenzie said trading had "continued at a buoyant level". Home computers were now the key business area with the company number two in the home market behind Sinclair Research.

Amstrad shares have suffered because of the problems afflicting Sinclair and Acorn Computers but with year's profits expected to be up 81 per cent at £15 million, Wood Mackenzie says the shares are a buy.

USM newcomer John Perkins Meats rose to a 7p premium above the offer price at 48p on news that Mr Vasant Advani's Atlanta Investment Trust had taken a 25.3 per cent stake. Only 30 per cent of the equity was offered. Mr Advani

will join the board as a non-executive director.

Charlie Brown, the car accessories retailer, also started well rising to 86p, 10p above the placing price.

Hogg Robinson continued to lose ground after the termination of merger talks with C. E. Heath. The shares were down 6p to 257p.

United Scientific Holdings rose another 9p to 215p on

shares. Sound Diffusion rose 8p to 106p on speculative demand.

Oceanic was down 15p at 65p on fading bid hopes. Jones Woodhead lost 3p to 33p, also on fading bid hopes, as Parsons Whittemore announced its stake was for investment only.

Tate & Lyle bounced back 8p to 456p on comment after its results. Davenports lost 5p to 238p on profits down 20 per cent.

Energy Services & Electronics, on the receiving end of an agreed bid from Brammer, rose 1p to 112p. Brammer, on the receiving end of an unwanted bid from Bunzl, rose 2p to 373p.

French Connection Group fell 5p to 215p on the statement by Mr Stephen Marks, at the annual meeting that business in the US continues to be quiet, although Britain and France both showed strong recovery in the first quarter this year. The company's first range of children's fashion clothes has been enthusiastically received and a quick take-off in volume is expected over the next three years.

Reardon Smith Line the Cardiff shipping operator, re-

quested a temporary suspension of its shares. In the half year to end September 1984, the company made a loss of £2 million against a profit of £246,000. The ordinary shares were suspended at 13p and the 'A' shares at 84p.

Hunting Gibsons was also suspended at 106p after agreement was reached on the acquisition of Hunting Group via the issue of 13.9 million new shares.

TI Group climbed to a 268p 1985 peak with a 10p advance. Vickers lost 5p at 253p as the Kuwait Investment Office confirmed it had acquired the Saul Steinberg shareholding.

Mebon, the coatings group, returned at 121p on the 125p share offer from British Petroleum.

Oils were firmer after Wednesday's discount. BP rose 4p to 330p and Britoil, with the government share sale looming, gained 2p to 220p. Details of the disposal of the Government's 49 per cent shareholding are now expected next month.

Banks were worried by Argentina's debt developments. The rumour of the Bank of Scotland rights issue went through the market. B of S held at 374p.

McLeod Russell was up 11p to 341p in a thin market. Another tea stock, Eastern Produce, gained 5p to 345p at one stage but was back to unchanged on the close. Property companies lost ground with Capital and Coun-

ties down 7p to 197p and MEPC down 5p to 292p both after results out earlier this week. Peachey Properties was 7p lower at 258p on the announcement that it is paying £28.2 million for a portfolio of properties from Lloyds Bank. A vendor placing of 5.5 million shares at 248p, 19 per cent of the existing share capital, was made to help fund the acquisition.

First National Finance Corporation gained another 3p to 100 1/2p on continued speculative support. Petrol rose 15p to 220p on speculative demand. Our Price rose another 15p to

Energy Capital, the former Hambleton, resumed 10p higher to 52p, having touched 56p on good buying. It is thought that Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, who took a 27.6 per cent stake in January 1984, has now sold out completely. He unloaded half his stake to Syracuse Investments last year and has been trying to sell the rest to relieve cash constraints at Amadens, his Bermuda vehicle. There is no particular development news on the oil and gas exploration and uranium production front.

495p, but Combined English Stores came back 5p to 147p on profit taking after its recent run. Boots was down 3p to 193p on results in line with expectations. Dixons was up 8p at 697p ahead of figures soon.

Traded option highlights

Just under 5,100 contracts were completed on the London Traded Option Market yesterday.

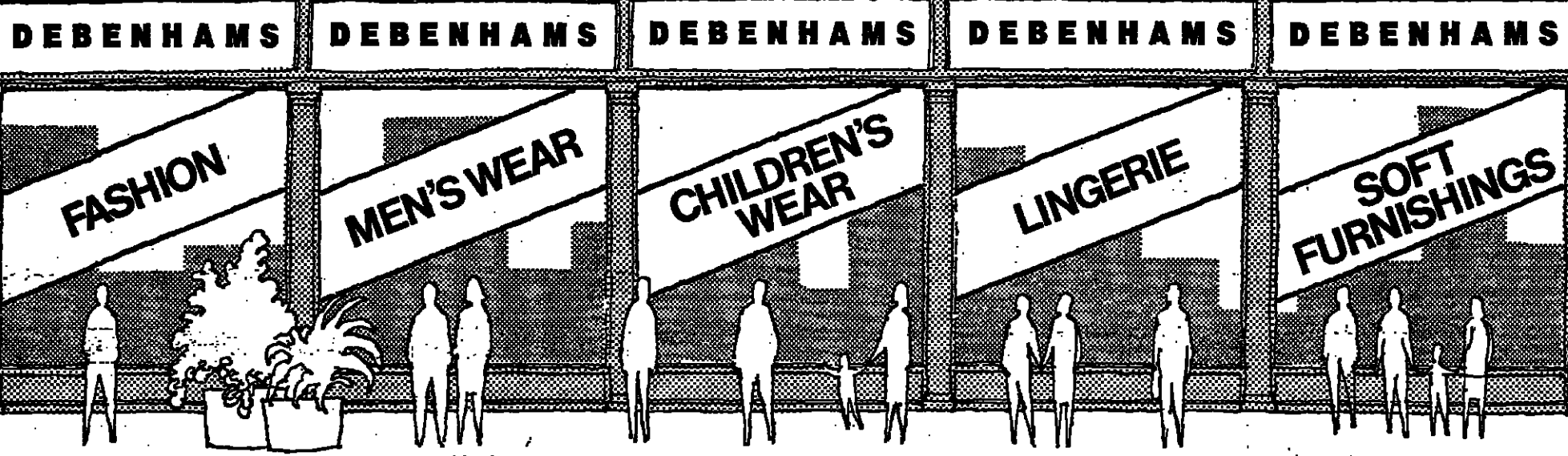
Most frequently traded was the currency option which

attracted 209 calls and 255 puts. Imperial Chemical Industries achieved 356 bargains and Jaguar 280.

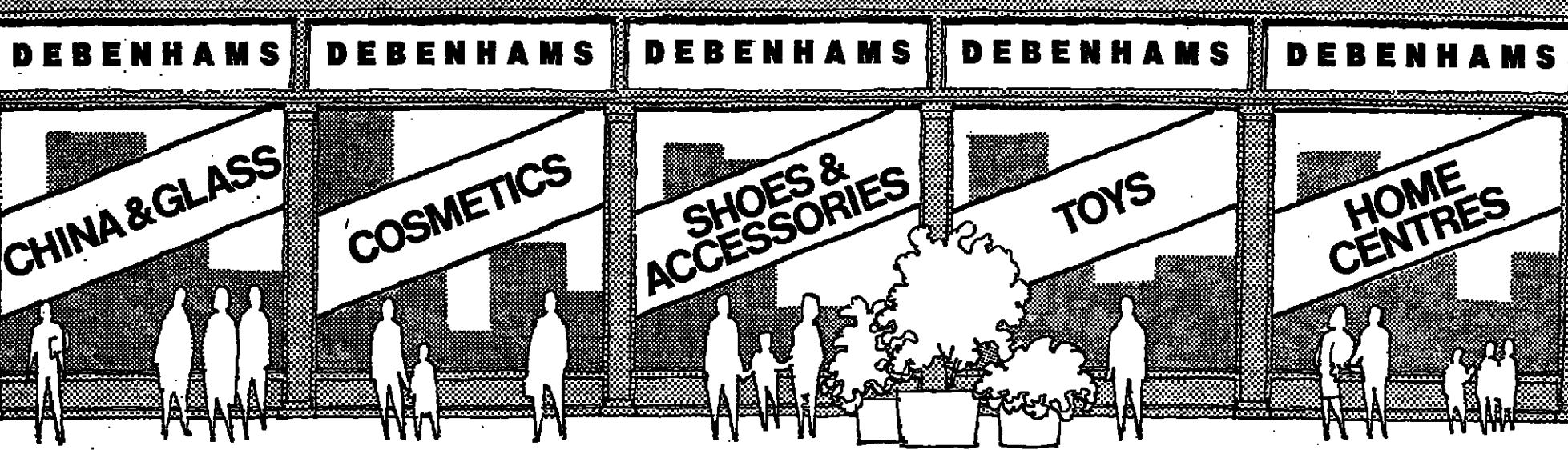
The gilt contract received 201 calls and 109 puts.

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The New Debenhams:



Specialist Retailing



is already here

Two years ago the management of Debenhams decided to divide the entire nation-wide trading operation of Debenhams into ten specialist companies. Each of these specialists is now responsible for all its own buying, selling, management and profitability. Each is visibly its own separate entity, competing successfully for shoppers' interest. The new style Debenhams' family stores are already measurably

paying off in extra sales and profits. This is far beyond Burton's so-called 'galleria' concept, let alone their capability as an organisation whose experience is largely in selling clothing to the 15-25 year age group.

Action
The new Debenhams is more than an apparently revolutionary concept. It has been put into effect.

It is unique, it works, it is growing. It also provides a ready and flexible framework for Debenhams' joint ventures with other retailers who provide the famous 'shops within shops'.

Ignore the Burton's offer and keep your Debenhams shares.

The New
DEBENHAMS
Specialists - above all

If you would like a copy of the Debenhams' Annual Report, to be published soon, please write to the Company Secretary, Debenhams PLC, 1 Welbeck Street, London W1A 1DF.

A. G. Stanley Holdings p.l.c.

At the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman, Malcolm Stanley said:
"Buoyant trading in the last two months has compensated for the difficult conditions caused by the bad weather in January-February and I am confident that the group will make further progress in the current year."

In the past financial year to December 1984, the group achieved near-trebled taxable profits of £1.8 million. The profits performance was due to four main factors:-
□ Closure of unprofitable stores
□ Reduction in costs
□ Improvement in gross margins
□ Return to profitability at the group's wallcovering mill

	1984	1983
Turnover	£56m	£55m
Pre-tax profit	£1.8m	£0.6m
Earnings per share	3.45p	1.73p
Dividends per share	2.5p	1.5p

A copy of the report and accounts can be obtained from: The Secretary, Victoria Mills, Macclesfield Road, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, Cheshire CW4 7TA.

FADS

Base Lending Rates

Bailey Morris investigates 'junk bonds' war

Trail-blazing proves tough for new breed of company raiders

Mr Pete V. Domenici, the outspoken Republican senator from New Mexico, has declared war on America's new breed of corporate raiders in a classic struggle which has shaken the pillars of Wall Street.

Junk bond financings almost always involve the same format. The bonds are issued by a shell corporation created as a vehicle for a hostile takeover attempt. The sale is generally arranged by an investment banking firm such as Drexel Burnham Lambert, leader in the junk bond field, on behalf of a corporate raider or company needing cash to fund off a raid.

The bonds are sold to a group of wealthy investors - corporate raiders, savings and loan associations, foreign corporations - who are looking for maximum yields. In some cases, shell corporations have issued these bonds to finance stock purchases entirely with borrowed funds. In these situations, there is effectively no difference between bonds and loans which means that investors are allowed to circumvent margin requirements that loans cannot exceed 50 per cent of the value of the stock being purchased.

Mr Domenici is seeking to disarm the "raiders" by eliminating what he regards as their most powerful weapon - low investment grade "junk bonds" used increasingly to finance hostile corporate takeovers. He has proposed legislation declaring a moratorium on such takeovers until the end of December as the first step in a broader reform by Congress and the US Federal Reserve Board to halt what the senator describes as a "dangerous accumulation of corporate debt".

He was backed last weekend by Senator John Danforth, chairman of the Senate commerce committee, who said: "We would urge quick legislation to limit airline transfers following a takeover attempt on TWA by Mr Carl Icahn, despite assurances from Mr Icahn that he would not dismantle the airline."

But the "raiders" and their supporters are fighting back. Acting as the self-appointed champions of America's shareholders, this group of flamboyant individual investors - Mr T. Boone Pickens, Mr Carl Icahn, Mr Irwin Jacobs, Sir James Goldsmith and others - is launching a populist counter-attack. Their target is entrenched company management which the raiders describe disdainfully as "the corporate

aristocracy" which no longer deigns to dirty its hands in the actual running of companies.

Hostile takeovers provide the stuff of which a new generation of well-run, competitive American companies are made. This is the message of the raiders.

It is a debateable point which has unleashed a domestic storm. Wall Street official is pitted against Wall Street official. The power centres of New York and Washington are involved.

On one side are those espousing the rights of shareholders and the demise of weak corporate managers. On the other are some of Wall Street's most respected officials who say that the wave of highly lever-

and better management. Third, the system of buying out shareholders with junk bonds allows markets to use capital more efficiently.

"Our argument is that debt is

INDUSTRY TODAY

'The same form of speculative abuse which led to the 1929 crash'

aged takeovers represents the same form of speculative abuse which led to the 1929 crash.

Mr Nicholas F. Brady, chairman of the investment banking firm of Dillon, Read & Company, is one of the latter.

"These activities represent an abuse of the system which is among the most serious I have seen in 30 years. Speculative, highly leveraged financing techniques involving junk takeover bonds, if unchecked, will leave misery in their wake", Mr Brady said.

The intensity of the debate and the likelihood of a strong government response were demonstrated recently by the unusual appearance in Washington of the top executives of Drexel Burnham Lambert, leaders in the high-risk, high-yield bond field.

Armed with charts, historical data and strong arguments, the Drexel Burnham team, led by Mr Frederick H. Joseph, the new president, attempted to convince sceptical congressmen and the US news media that junk bond financings are right and proper for three important reasons.

First, recent history dating from the 1970s has shown that junk bonds are not inordinately risky despite "below investment grade" ratings. Second, the present round of takeover activity spurred in large measure by junk bond financings is creating healthier companies

more available than equity capital. Debt is cheaper than equity capital, so you are more efficiently capitalizing companies if you do more debt", said Mr Joseph at a recent Drexel Burnham seminar.

An additional argument advanced by Drexel Burnham officials is that junk bonds represent values which are all-American: the right of a new breed of wealthy investors to make a lot of money unfettered by government interference.

But Mr Domenici and a growing number of his supporters in Congress remain unconvinced. They regard the proliferation of junk bond financings as a systemic threat, not only because of growing purchases of the high-yield securities by government pension funds and federal savings and loans but also because of the use of junk bonds to circumvent the Federal Reserve Board's margin rule. It states that loans for stock purchases cannot exceed 50 per cent of the value of the shares being purchased.

"In the military, there is a saying that safety regulations are written in blood. The margin requirement is written in the blood of 1929", Mr Domenici said.

Mr Domenici recently commissioned the Senate budget committee, which he chairs, to study the \$15 billion (£11.6 billion) junk bond market. The results lead him to these conclusions:

● In sharp contrast to the 1970s, when junk bond issues totalled only \$1 billion, the \$15 billion annual market is creating unprecedented amounts of high risk corporate debt which could cause a wave of defaults.

● Hostile takeovers financed by junk bonds force corporate officials to divert their energies from running companies into expensive, defensive tactics which create additional debt, often requiring the exhausted victors to sell what they fought so hard to keep.

● It is highly questionable whether it serves the public interest to treat large companies like artichokes, tearing them apart without regard for employees, communities or customers simply to pay off speculative debt.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **BAT INDUSTRIES/HAMBRO** As a result of its offer for the share capital of Hambro Ltd, BAT now owns or has received acceptance in respect of 120,387,354 Hambro Ltd shares (99.64% of the share capital). Sections for loan made available during the period from 3 pm on May 10 until 3 pm on May 24 amounted to £203,210,000. All elections to receive loan stocks or loan notes throughout the offer period which are valid in all respects will be satisfied in full.

● **MAGNOLIA GROUP (MOULDINGS)** The chairman, Mr R. J. Wallock, told the annual meeting: "Our current order books for both home and export are satisfactory and I am confident that we may look forward to reasonable growth in our profits this year, providing there is no material change in the present economic climate."

● **GRAND METROPOLITAN** The company expects an improvement in profits in the second half-year, ending Sept 30, after a decline in the first half, enabling it to finish the year with broadly the same

profit as in 1983-84. The decline in the first-half pretax profit to £131.9 million from £147 million a year earlier was due to a price war in the US. cheap, unbanded cigarette market between its Liggett Group subsidiary and Bat Industries' offshoot, Brown and Williamson.

● **BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT INVESTMENT TRUST** Year to March 31. Third interim dividend 0.2p and recommended final of 3.15p, making 4p (1.83p). Figures in £000. Pretax profit 9,460 (48,865). Tax 2,253 (1,531). EPS 4.23p (1.92p).

● **SOVEREIGN OIL AND GAS** The annual meeting was told that the company has been successful in acquiring all blocks in the North Sea. The most significant block awarded to Sovereign as operator is in the West Shetlands, adjacent to a potential oil discovery. In addition, Sovereign secured, for the first time, key

positions in the southern gas basin and central areas of the North Sea. Sovereign's financial position has never been stronger and the board is looking forward to an active exploration programme and participation in other business opportunities. Subject to no substantial fall in the oil price the board is proposing to pay the first dividend as an interim payment in October.

● **FITCH AND CO** The company has been appointed to design a department store in Utrecht by Dutch retail group, De Bijenkorf. It is the company's first significant international project since closing its overseas offices last year. It also highlights the potential for international design work, handled from London, the company's chairman told the annual meeting.

● **PERCY BILTON** The chairman, Mr A D Chesterfield, told the annual meeting that owing to continuing pressure on construction companies' margins, it was unlikely that prospects for civil engineering work would improve soon. However, prospects for property investment and development, the principal activities of the group, were extremely encouraging.



London United Investments

Public Limited Company

	year ended 31st December	
	1984	1983
Turnover	£000's 40,809	£000's 24,636
Operating profit	6,313	5,642
Group overheads	(782)	(677)
Share of profits of associated companies	644	256
Group profit before taxation	6,195	5,221
Taxation	3,000	2,640
Group profit after taxation	3,195	2,581
Extraordinary items	60	245
Group profit after extraordinary items	3,135	2,336
Transfer (to)/from capital reserves	13	(33)
	3,148	2,303
Dividends	1,529	1,412
Retained profit transferred to reserves	1,619	891
Earnings per share	27.16p	24.38p

London United Investments P.L.C. reports that the Group substantially increased its profits during 1984 and that the final dividend has been increased by 1p to 8p per share.

Pre-tax profit rose to £6,195,000 in 1984 from £5,221,000 in 1983, an increase of 18.66%.

A final dividend of 8p per share will be paid on Monday 1st July, 1985 to Shareholders on the register at the close of business on Friday 7th June, 1985, which together with the interim dividend of 5p per share already paid will total 13p per share for the year. This compares with 12p per share for the preceding year.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary at 12113 Lime Street, London EC3M 7AA.

This advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to apply for or purchase any of the shares to be offered. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the Ordinary share capital of the Company, issued and to be issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

IBL IBL plc

Registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1948 to 1967 No. 1264861

Offer for Sale by
Barclays Merchant Bank Limited
OF 18,928,572 ORDINARY SHARES OF 10p EACH AT 140p PER SHARE
PAYABLE IN FULL ON APPLICATION

SHARE CAPITAL	
Authorised £10,000,000	Issued and now being issued fully paid £7,174,732
The Ordinary shares now offered for sale will rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared, paid or made.	

IBL is a specialist leasing group engaged in the supply and financing of new and second-user computer equipment. Substantially all of the equipment supplied by IBL is manufactured by IBM. IBL's success derives from its strong financial and marketing skills combined with its expert knowledge of IBM computer equipment. IBL has well established subsidiaries in most of the principal European computer markets. It also has subsidiaries in the USA and operations in the Gulf States and South Africa.

The Application List will open at 10.00am on Thursday, 6th June, 1985, and may be closed at any time thereafter.

Copies of the Offer for Sale, which comprises Listing Particulars (on the terms of which, alone, applications will be considered) with application forms, will be available from 31st May, 1985, from:

- IBL plc,
Wentworth House,
1 Station Parade, Virginia Water,
Surrey GU25 4BD.

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited,
15/16 Gracechurch Street,
London EC3V 0BA.

Rowe & Pitman,
1 Finsbury Avenue,
London EC2M 2PA.
- Barclays Merchant Bank Limited,
York House, York Street,
Manchester M2 3BB.

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited,
39 Bennetts Hill,
Birmingham B2 5SR.
- and from the following branches of Lloyds Bank Plc:
- Registrar's Department,
Issue Section, PO Box 1000,
61 Moorgate, London EC2R 6BL.

113-115 George Street,
Edinburgh EH2 4TF.

125 Colmore Row,
Birmingham B3 3AD.

55 Corn Street,
Bristol BS99 7LE.

53 King Street,
Manchester M60 2ES.

9/17 Collingwood Street,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1RH.

27 High Street,
Cardiff CF1 1QZ.
- The Offer for Sale which comprises Listing Particulars is published, with application forms, in today's Financial Times and Daily Telegraph.

Extel GROUP

HIGHER EARNINGS - HIGHER DIVIDENDS

Year to 31st March	1985 £000	1984 £000
Turnover	182,506	149,488
Profit before taxation	10,896	10,611
Earnings per share	17.6p	15.6p
Dividends per share	6.75p	6.0p

The 1985 figures are extracted from the Company's accounts which received an unqualified report from the auditors and which will be filed with the registrar of companies.

■ Earnings per share up by 12.8%

■ Dividends up by 12.5%

Outstandingly good results from:

Royds Advertising Group
Burrups Printing Group
Sporting and Financial Services
Benn Brothers - publishing

Digital Microsystems:
US setback contained
UK company made good profit

Alan Brooker, Chairman

Extel Group PLC

Extel House, East Harding Street, London EC4P 4HB.

RUGBY UNION

England back row must curb NZ pack on loose ball

From David Hands, Rugby Correspondent Christchurch

The omission of Gary Rees, the Nottingham flanker, from England's team to play New Zealand at Lancaster Park here tomorrow may have a crucial bearing on the course of the match. On this tour, Rees has played at home and three on tour this year. That decision will have caused as much agonizing as did the back row, but Orwin has been chosen in the hope of presenting a more effective set-scrum challenge and for his loose play.

A great loss descends on Bainbridge. Orwin will find it difficult to win lineout ball from Whetton, similarly Teague from Mexted, so the physical demands on Bainbridge will be relieved (and the relief will be slight) only by the fact that Pierce, his opposite number, is making his first appearance in an international.

England trained in private at the Linwood club yesterday morning after the players had been told the team. That in itself is most unusual, though the British Lions did the same here before the first international of the 1985 series.

Tomorrow's game, the first of two internationals, represents England's best chance of winning a toe-hold on the series. They have had the benefits of match practice and training together over the last three weeks and, in recent years, the All Blacks have been notoriously slow starters, in all cases at Lancaster Park.

But that, frankly, is whistling into the wind. In experience and attitude there is an immense gulf between the teams. England will try to exert pressure on the more scrum-happy New Zealand by an adequate full back, playing his first game, and can expect some high balls. Kirk, another newcomer at scrum half, must adjust to the atmosphere, though from what we saw of him in Auckland, that will be little problem.

Having already won three caps for New Zealand, Salmon now creates his own niche in rugby history as the first player to appear for both countries. His attacking ability won him the place ahead of Barley, while outside he has the pace but somewhat fallible hands of Harrison, rather than the more reliable Martin. Goodwin, though fit, was ruled out by his lack of match practice.

As has become increasingly likely on this tour, Davies makes his first international appearance at full back. It will be a demanding role for a player who was not even included in the original party, though he was added once it was confirmed that Andrew, the Nottingham stand-off half, could not tour. "Playing full back presents you with a whole new range of attacking options," Davies said before venturing out against Otago this week.

Among the forwards, Bainbridge, having missed the last

IN BRIEF

Mrs Sly: planning ahead

Sly on track with race programme

Wendy Sly, the 3,000-metre Olympic Games silver medalist, has announced that she will next three races in her 1985 outdoor programme.

She will run in the 1,500 metres women's invitation race at Birmingham on June 21 when England's men take on the United States. Mrs Sly then hopes to be selected for the British team for two international matches - Britain v France v Czechoslovakia at Gateshead on June 29, where she seeks a place in the 3,000 metres, and the 1,500 metres event at the Pearl Assurance International at Birmingham on July 6 and 7, when Britain's women meet East Germany and the men take on the East Germans and Japan.

● John Regis, the 18-year-old joint Great Britain 200 metres champion, makes his debut for Belgrave Harriers in their GRE British League third division match at Windsor on Saturday. Regis links up with Ghana's Olympic sprinter, Ernest Obeng, to form a strong pairing.

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HOCKEY

Youthful British squad

By Joyce Whitehead

The new Great Britain team play two matches against the Netherlands, the world champions, tomorrow and on Sunday at Gaisheid International Stadium on the artificial pitch.

Following the trials and training weekend at Lilleshall at the beginning of May, the squad of 15 consists of seven players from England, five from Scotland, two from Wales and Violet McBride, with 17 British players from Northern Ireland. The omission of England's Vickie Dixon, an outstanding defender, is most surprising. The squad is young and lacking in

experience. The England team will play in the international invitation tournament in Amsterdam in June and leave on August 24 for a month's tour of New Zealand and Australia. Britain's tour of Australia on June 22 in Scotland. It will not be surprising if some of the players cannot afford to miss work for all of the scheduled matches.

GREAT BRITAIN: W. Banks (Wales), K. Brown (England), M. Fraser (Scotland), K. Gordon (England), F. Hoadley (England), S. Hoadley (England), F. Hoadley (Scotland), S. Hoadley (England), J. Cook (goal-keeper) (England).

SHOW JUMPING

Dickinson is just a fraction superior

By Jenny MacArthur

Helena Dickinson, who is aged 21, defeated nearly 50 of Europe's top riders on Team Raffles' 10-year-old, Just Malone, to win the Everest Double Glazing Stakes in the opening competition at yesterday's Everest Double Glazing Nations Cup meeting at Hickstead. She clipped a fraction of a second off the time of Roger Yves Bess, the young French rider, on Jorjeph du Prieur, who was running-up, Jeff McVean, Australia's Olympic rider, took third place on Furt Z.

Just Malone's victory comes less than two months after Miss Dickinson, who comes from Sheffield, signed her sponsorship contract with the Team Raffles. Since then she has been with the British team on their successful tour in Spain where, at the Madrid show earlier this month, the pair completed three clear rounds in the Nations Cup to help win the event for Britain.

Going last out of 21 riders in a jump-off yesterday, Miss Malone said: "I knew I had nothing to lose. She had to beat Post's time of 50.70. It was clear they meant that 21 out of the 49 starters went clear, producing a marathon jump-off."

Surprisingly, three out of the four horses who represented Britain at the Los Angeles Olympic failed to reach the second round. The Next Team's Amanda, ridden by Michael Whitaker and Sanyo Shining Example, ridden by Harvey Smith both knocked down a fence six, a white oxer, while John Whitaker on Ryan's Son, a horse who generally needs one or two outings before he gets his eye in, clipped the first fence but went on to complete an otherwise faultless round.

In the jump-off Liz Edgar, the first to go, produced a typically well-judged clear round on Everest Forever, who eventually finished fourth. The other British riders in the jump-off, Malcom Pryor on Towerlands Angler, who was having his first outing for six weeks, went clear but in a slower time.

EVEREST DOUBLE GLAZING STAKES, 1st Helena Dickinson (GB) on Just Malone (10 years, 10.5, 50.70), 2nd Roger Yves Bess (F) on Jorjeph du Prieur (10 years, 10.5, 51.00), 3rd Jeff McVean (AUS) on Furt Z (10 years, 10.5, 51.20).

HORSE TRIALS

Calder sets high standard

By Keith Macklin

It was peaceful and sunny in the Yorkshire countryside and there was a gentle and unobtrusive start to the four-day Barbours Bramham Horse Trials with the first of two days of national advanced and young riders' dressage.

While peacocks strutted in the untidy acres of the Versailles-inspired gardens, Alex Calder set the standard on the chestnut mare, VSOP, with 37.68, followed by Angela Tucker's iron grey Country Souze III with 38.81, and Pru McNulty on the bay gelding, Ladram Bay, with 44.15.

They will be hard pressed today on the second day of the dressage. The Olympic event medal team of Alex Calder, Stuart and Diana Chapman, set the arena on Cheltenham and Jet Set II. Richard Meade is on Bruno's Dream, Ginny Strawn on Sparrowhawk II, David and Marie on Cheltenham, and Cornelia of Cheltenham.

DRESSAGE: First day leaders: Alex Calder 37.68; Country Souze III, Angela Tucker 38.81; Pru McNulty 44.15. Second day: Alex Calder 37.68; Country Souze III, Angela Tucker 38.81; Pru McNulty 44.15. Second day: Alex Calder 37.68; Country Souze III, Angela Tucker 38.81; Pru McNulty 44.15.

Prince's crown

Arche Prince, Mr J Hopwood's six-year-old black, shown by Dan Taitford, won the championship at the Royal Bath and West Show yesterday with the large black lighter, Beconsall and Northern Light, shown by Miss J Walsh, runner-up (a special Correspondent writes).

RESULTS: Beconsall Gold Cup, 1st Arche Prince, 2nd Beconsall and Northern Light, 3rd Beconsall and Northern Light, 4th Beconsall and Northern Light, 5th Beconsall and Northern Light, 6th Beconsall and Northern Light, 7th Beconsall and Northern Light, 8th Beconsall and Northern Light, 9th Beconsall and Northern Light, 10th Beconsall and Northern Light.

DRESSAGE

Champion's farewell

Dutch Courage, Mrs Steele's and Jennie Loriston-Clarke's stallion, will make his farewell at the Goodwood International Dressage Championships opening today after a decade of success in international competitions (a special Correspondent writes).

With a record of 127 wins out of 224 classes and an individual bronze medal from the world championships, Dutch Courage will bow out in a display showing off both his dressage and his personality, many of whom have had international success themselves.

Goodwood also stages on Sunday one of the first qualifiers for the Nations World Cup, when the first three in the major championship, dressage will be judged to music. This event has attracted some of the best riders in Europe, including the Olympic dressage champion, Annette Gracie, and her Dutch partner, Dutch Courage.

RACING: TREE COLT CAN HEAD LINGFIELD TREBLE FOR PAT EDDY

Blinkers to aid Bassenthwaite

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Pat Eddy looks the jockey to follow this evening at Lingfield Park, where Bassenthwaite should be the middle leg of a treble for the former champion, provided he reacts favourably to the blinkers that he will be wearing for the first time in the Leisure Stakes.

Blinkers are deemed necessary because Eddy advised Jeremy Tree after the 2,000 Guineas that they should be tried as Bassenthwaite raced much to stagginess.

Yet, despite the lack of purpose, Bassenthwaite still managed to finish fifth in the 2,000 over a distance that one always felt might prove a shade too far. Before that he had finished a highly creditable second in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury considering that Cash Assmusen, the American jockey who rode him that day, used his very considerable speed in just getting to Baines rather than challenging him.

Last Autumn Bassenthwaite won the Middle Park Stakes by four lengths from Doolally, whose connections obviously thought twice about renewing the encounter today and eventually decided against it. As none of the others who have stood their ground have showed comparable form, it will be disappointing if Bassenthwaite fails to make a winning comeback over what should prove to be his best distance.



Bassenthwaite, who reverts to sprinting in this evening's Leisure Stakes at Lingfield

Earlier in the evening Eddy should have no difficulty in landing his nap Welsh Nuts in the EBF Saffron Stakes. As he is a daughter of that influential stallion Sharpen Up, Welsh Nuts has bags of speed. She made that abundantly clear when winning her only race so far, at Windsor 11 days ago, by three lengths without ever coming off the bit. She was backed down to favouritism that evening and never looked like letting her supporters down. Now I expect a repeat performance.

After stable companion Folk Dance will not need to have improved much since his run at Newbury, in the race won by Mango Dancer, to open his account in the Smugglers Maiden Stakes.

Earlier in the day Eddy will be at Newmarket where he has a good chance of winning the Thurlow Handicap on that

much-improved filly In The Shade, who has already scored very comfortably in the Warwick and Sandown this season.

The main race at Head-quarters is the Queensbury Fillies' Stakes, sponsored by the British Bloodstock Agency. This looks a good opportunity for Saffia, whose overall form last season was superior to that of any of her rivals. My last glimpse of Saffia was when she was beaten a neck and the same by Doolally and Cragside in the Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot in October.

Brig Chop, that impressive winner of the Brethby Handicap at Newmarket on 1,000 Guineas Day, is taken to successfully defy top weight in the Brandon Handicap at the

expense of Korypheos, the winner of the race 12 months ago and slowly coming to form now, and October, who has looked unlucky in both his races this season.

Beresque and Mihaer, both sons of Formidable, are expected to run well in the EBF Ashley Maiden Stakes without, perhaps, being quite good enough to cope with Green Desert, who is by Danzig, one of the most talked-about young sires in the United States these days.

Following that encouraging run behind Jeanne Avril and Sailor's Song at Windsor, Sanyo is expected to win the Overvill Trophy at Thirk.

Course specialists

NEWMARKET
H. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;

THIRSK
H. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;

LINGFIELD
H. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;

HAMILTON
H. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;
J. Oak, 28 winners from 340 runners, 27.1%;

STRATFORD

GOING: good to firm
2.15 EBF STATION ROAD MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o)
C & G: £1,228; 5f (11 runners)
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11.

GOING: good to firm
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Miller out for three months

Mick Miller, the jockey who fractured his pelvis in the three horse pile-up at Brighton on Wednesday, is likely to be out of action for at least three months. Doctor Michael Allen, the Jockey Club's senior medical officer, visited Miller in Brighton's Royal Sussex County Hospital yesterday. Miller, aged 30, also has a fractured collarbone and fractured ribs.

Gay Kellaway was detained in the same hospital overnight with a cracked collarbone and fractured ribs.

At Brighton yesterday Downview won the Balmcombe Handicap at odds of 25-1 and achieved a long standing ambition for his trainer, Charles and Wilkes, whose stables adjoin the course at the mile start. "I've been training for 25 years and this is my first ever winner on the course," Downview said.

David Eddery, younger brother of the established riders, Pat and Paul, partnered the third winner of his career when giving a polished display on 12-1 chance Sir Blessed in the Glyde Apprentices Handicap. David is attached to the Newmarket stable of Robert Williams, the trainer of the winner, Most Empire, 4-1 joint favourite, led from the start and was still leading Affairs entering the final furlong. However, he was coming to the end of his tether and Eddery brought Sir Blessed with a perfectly timed challenge to take command just over half a furlong from home.

Victories have been few and far between for Sir Blessed. He managed just one win from 12 outings last season, and only scored once in 1983. Williams went on to complete a double by saddling Downview to land the Park Top Fillies Handicap.

City Boy best

City Boy went to Stratford for the Tractors Novices' Chase a fortnight ago and put up a lacklustre performance. He was unable to cope with the party piece of Miss Crox and J. Henry and when beginning to make a forward move he was hampered, lost his place and never got into the race again, Brian Bell writes.

Croxnight he returns to the same venue for the Land Rover Final Champion Novice Hunter Chase for the John Corbett Cup. The race is half a mile further and in the small field of ten runners, Tim Thomson will have plenty of time to settle him and he should make amends.

● **Ladbrokes have shortened Henry Cecil's Oh So Sharp from 5-2 to 9-4 for next Saturday's Oaks.**

BRIGHTON RESULTS

GOING: good to firm
2.15 EBF STATION ROAD MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o)
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C & G: £1,228; 5f (11 runners)
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11.

NEWMARKET

GOING: good to firm
2.30 PASSO FINALE, 3.0 ALL IS REVEALED, 3.30 BRIG CHOP, 4.0 SAKA, 4.30 GREEN DESERT, 5.05 TRADE LANE.

NEWMARKET SELECTIONS

By Mandarin

2.30 Passo Finale, 3.0 All Is Revealed, 3.30 Brig Chop, 4.0 Saka, 4.30 Green Desert, 5.05 Trade Lane.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.30 Lammastide, 3.0 All Is Revealed, 3.30 October, 4.0 Arrow To Heaven, 4.30 Green Desert, 5.05 Trade Lane.

3.0 COWLING SELLING STAKES (3-y-o: £1,768; 1m) (11)

2.30 Lammastide, 3.0 All Is Revealed, 3.30 October, 4.0 Arrow To Heaven, 4.30 Green Desert, 5.05 Trade Lane.

3.30 BRANDON HANDICAP (2,194; 7f) (10)

2.30 Lammastide, 3.0 All Is Revealed, 3.30 October, 4.0 Arrow To Heaven, 4.30 Green Desert, 5.05 Trade Lane.

4.0 B B A QUEENSBURY FILLES STAKES (3-y-o: £3,918; 6f) (7)

2.30 Lammastide, 3.0 All Is Revealed, 3.30 October, 4.0 Arrow To Heaven, 4.30 Green Desert, 5.05 Trade Lane.

4.30 EBF ASHLEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: £2,714; 5f) (11)

2.30 Lammastide, 3.0 All Is Revealed, 3.30 October, 4.0 Arrow To Heaven, 4.30 Green Desert, 5.05 Trade Lane.

5.05 THURLOW HANDICAP (2,238; 1m) (8)

2.30 Lammastide, 3.0 All Is Revealed, 3.30 October, 4.0 Arrow To Heaven, 4.30 Green Desert, 5.05 Trade Lane.

5.30 BRIGHTON RESULTS

2.30 Lammastide, 3.0 All Is Revealed, 3.30 October, 4.0 Arrow To Heaven, 4.30 Green Desert, 5.05 Trade Lane.

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Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

description of Klemperer (in his

tonight's film lists to mention that, in recognition of Klempner's unmarked way of being, Westhoven, Mr Freeman dropped in for this additional Barlow opening music in favour of a snatch from the Erolia.

Cranibus has packed its profile with marvellous stories. Specs. Inevitably, is found for the tale of Klempner's elopement with another man's wife, the soprano Elisabeth, who was in a ridiculous episode that culminated in the outraged husband striking Klempner across the face with a riding crop during a Hamburg performance. The photographer (y). and knocking him into the orchestra pit. In his biography, Mr Heyworth recalls that a hurricane struck Hamburg that night - an occurrence that furnished the melodramatic component of Michael Rattiffe's

CHANNEL 4

2.30 **Dry Wood.** A documentary about the life and music of French-speaking black people living in the Ceveny country of southwest Louisiana.

3.10 **Hot Pepper,** starring French actor Jean-Claude Corbelli playing a mixture of rock and blues.

4.10 **Imogen Cunningham.** Director Jon Korty's film biography of the celebrated photographer (y).

4.30 **Television Scramble.** Alan Coren presents another edition of the electronic board game. Yesterday's winners are being punished by a member of the comedy partnership by Frank Deirney.

5.00 **BMX Championship.** Programme one of a new expert competition between top professionals from the United States and the United Kingdom.

5.30 **Friday Zone: ECT.** For Heavy Metal fans. *Performing live* are Lee Arnon, Venom, Gunslingers and the Thunderbolts.

6.10 **Paintbox.** An interlude combining a fantasy story about a plasticine girl with music by Deadline and Psychic TV.

6.20 **Soul Train.** Introduced by Jeffrey Daniel. The guests include Ashford and Simpson, Five Star and Style Council. The archive video features Freda Payne.

7.00 **Channel Four news** and weather.

7.30 **Right to Reply.** Two students from Grafton School in Bristol argue that the C4 News item, filmed at their school on VE Day, to illustrate that modern youth know nothing about the Second World War, made them look ill-informed.

8.00 **What the Papers Say.** With Duncan Campbell of City Limits.

8.15 **A Week in Politics.** Do ruling parties in councils abuse their power? An investigation. Plus, an interview with David Steel.

8.00 **The Cosby Show.** Comedian Bill Cosby and his family. This week, father decides to show his children and their friends what real dancing is about.

9.30 **Tell Them I'm a Mammal.** A musical documentary, introduced by Jane Fonda, in which seven women, all with physical disabilities, talk and sing about their lives in a witty, never self-pitying, way.

10.00 **Cheers.** *Norm does an ailing Cliff* a good turn and ends up in prison.

10.30 **Who Cares.** Joan Shenon explores the trend of privatization of residential homes for the elderly.

11.30 **Film: The Rocky Horror Show (1976).** The first British television airing for this cult film about a couple who accidentally discover a collection of bodies from the distant planet of Transylvania. Starring Tim Curry. Directed by Jim Sharman. Ends at 1.15



Otto Klemperer: Omnibus,

Peter Davalle

Radio 4

On long wave, 1. Also VHF stereo.

6.55 **Sleeping & Waking Briefings:** Weather, 6.10 Farming, 6.20 Prayer.

6.30 Today, including 6.38, 7.30, 8.30 News, 6.45 Business News, 6.55 7.55 Weather News, 8.00, 8.00 News, 8.15, 8.25 Sport, 7.45 Thought for the Day, 8.50 Letters, 8.57 Weather; Travel.

9.00 News.

9.05 Russell Harty's Musical Encounters, Victoria Wood, song writer and comedienne, joins Newsday. Harty for conversation and music. (P.)

9.45 Feedback, Susan Marling follows up listeners' comments on BBC program.

10.00 News; International Assignment.

10.30 Morning Story: A Respectful Deception, by John Galsworthy. Reader: Sandra Clark.

10.45 Daily Service, New Every Morning, page 91.

11.00 News, 11.05 The Finest Work in England, Roger Wootton describes a strange episode in railway history. (P.)

11.48 Natural Selection: The regeneration game.

12.00 News; You and Yours, Consumer Affairs.

12.27 Book Plug, John Cleese (alias Vice-Commander Muriel) talks about his new book. MacGregor and Johns offer well-known humorists in sketches. (P.)

12.55 Weather.

1.00 News, World at One: News.

1.40 The Archers, 1.55 Shipping.

2.00 News; Woman's Hour, Includes an item on music therapy.

2.05 The Laughing Men, Score by Sir Compton-Burnett, dramatised in six parts by John Spurling. (A) (P.)

4.00 News; Evening News, 4.15 News, 4.30 Jacob reports from the Paris Air Show.

4.40 Story Time: "Dead Man Laid off by His Private First Part." Reader: Michael Cochrane.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz
200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1
Sandoz MF 648kHz/463m

- 5.00 PM: News magazine, 5.50 Shopping, 5.55 Weather.
- 6.00 The Six O'Clock News; Financial Review.
- 6.30 The Farmhouse: Upstairs, New variety acts from London's fringe circuit.
- 7.00 News.
- 7.05 The Archers.
- 7.20 Pick of the Week: Margaret Howard's selection of TV and radio highlights.
- 8.20 Stop Press: Nigel Rees examines the week's newspapers, and the journalists.
- 8.45 Any Questions? Michael Heseltine, John Garmett, Ken Clarke and Margaret Clay.
- 9.00 Longtime and Mincepot: Glen Johnson and Timpona of Fleet in Hampshire.
- 9.30 Letter from America by Alastair.
- 9.45 Kaleidoscope. Includes comment on BBC's new drama serial Boxer.
- 10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'Weights and Measures' by Joseph Roth (5). Reader: Tom Wilkinson.
- 10.30 The World Tonight.
- 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
- 12.30 Week Ending. Editorial review.
- 1.00 The World Tonight.
- 1.10 The World Tonight.
- 1.15 VHF (available in England and S Wales only) as above except 5.55-5.00am Weather; Travel, 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner, 5.50-5.55 PM (continued).
- 1.40 The World Tonight.
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Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Schubert's
Polonaise in B flat, D 580
(Kramer/LSO/Tchakovrov);
Johann Strauss Elder's Spert
Polka (Ensemble Bella Musica);
Janacek's Concertino for piano
and chamber ensemble
(Frisius, piano); Chabrier's
Danse slave (British National
Orchestra/Jordan); Beethoven's
Symphony No 1 (Nienna
PO/Waingartner) 1.00 News.

285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693
52kHz/281m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 154

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| 8.05 | Morning Concert (cont'd):
Haydn's Symphony No 40
P. Beethoven: Piano Concerto
No 5 "Emperor"
Parzenhal (Bavarian Radio
Chorus/Helsinki); Dvorak's
Symphony No 9 minor
(G. S. Tchaikovsky)
Shostakovich's Piano Concerto
No 2 (Kirov/Chicago)
Makymyuk, 12.50 News |
| 8.06 | This Week's Compulsions: The
Penguin Classics of Thomas
Hardy |
| 10.00 | And excerpts from Dardanis,
Bernetti, Brittan and Sargent
Rita and Hilda (Arizona
Greece) play Richard Rodney
Benjamin's Capriccio; Britten's
The Prince of the Pagodas
Burlesque, Op 25 No 1; Mazurka
Bulgaria, Op 28 No 1; Lannock
Ballet's Polka, Nocturne,
Capriccio, Op 8.7 |
| 10.30 | Larghest Chamber Orchestra
(London, UK)
Periodical Overflows No 1 In D;
Malcorn Arnold's Sinfonia No 2
Barber's Piano Concerto for
Strings; Ravel's/one's
Divertimento for chamber
ensemble |

- Edwards (soprano), Dorothy
Petro (piano). Includes four
Wendell's Songs Op 7;
Hindemith's Echo, Envoys, The
Moors; and Lady Lovers' song,
The Lady and the Unicorn.
- 2.15 Midday Concert: Ulster Orchestra
under Wordsworth, with Barry
Dolan, Flute. Includes Wagner's
Weber's Konzertstück in F minor
Schubert's Rosamunde music;
Chopin's Andante and Mazurka
and Grande Polonaise Opus
22.1.1. Grand News.
- 1.05 Concert part two, Bzest
concerto in G flat
- 1.35 Music Serenade: J H Hummel's
Octet Partita in E flat; and
Mozart's Piano Sonata in C, K.
587.
- 2.19 University of Wales Recital:
Endellion String Quartet play
Mozart's B flat K. 589 and
Beethoven's Five movements Op 5.
Interval reading at 3.00. At 3.55,
Schubert's Quartet in G, K. 687,
Franz Liszt's Concerto in A
Major, Cambridge, 1.4.55 News.
- 5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: Record
selection of recorded music.
- 6.30 Music for Guitar: Neil Smith's
recital includes works by Segovia
and Sor. Sonatas include Op 25
(fourth movement); minuet and
tango; Gomez-Crespo, Rodrigo
(Tiento, Pasquet; seriales); and
Garcia Yegorova's Suite.
- 7.00 Five French Songs: (S) Roger
Nichols with recordings of Fanny
Helby.
- 7.30 House of Shelley: piano recital.
Part one. Beethoven's Sonata in
F sharp Op 78; Debussy's
Sonata for Cello; Ives' Song
and Ferguson's Sonata in F minor.
- 8.20 Battle Cry in the German
University. Talk by Heimit
Kahle.
- 8.40 Howard Shelly (cont'd): Chopin's
Twenty-four Preludes, Op 29.1.
- 9.25 The Musical Theatre: The
London Philharmonic Orchestra
(under Rulla), C P E Bach's No.3
Symphony in C, W V 182 No 3;
Mozart's Divertimento in B flat, K.
353; Mendelssohn's Symphony
No 5.

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19.15 **New Premises:** Stephen Games' arts review (r).

11.00 **Beethoven Piano Sonatas:** The last of 13 programmes. Alfred Brendel plays the Sonata in E major, Op 109; in A flat Op 110; and in C minor, Op 111.

00.12 **News** until 00.15.

VHF only: Open Union. From 6.35 to 8.55am Open Forum.

Radio 2

News on the hour. **Headlines 5.30am**,
6.20, 7.30 and 8.30.
4.00am Colin Byrne 1.00 **5.00am Ray Moore 1.00**
6.00am Ken Bruce 1.30.30 Jimmy Young
(legal problems answered by Andrew
Phillips) **1.30pm Sport Desk David**
Wetherall 1.20.30 Sports Desk 2.45
3.45 Humphrill 4.00 3.02 Sports Desk
3.30 Music All The Weir! and 4.02 Sports
Desk 4.15 4.30 Sports Desk 4.45
5.00 Sports Desk 5.05 John Durrell 6.45
Sport and Classified Results (MP) only
6.45 Ken Bruce 7.30.30 Sports Desk
8.00 Night 8.15 The Organist Entertains
8.30 Sports Desk 10.00 Vince Hill's
Solid Gold Music Show (British
10.00 10.30 Sports Desk 11.00 Night
Dr. A Cup of Coffee, a Sandwich and
11.00 Jeremy Beadle's Nightcap.
11.30 Sports Desk 12.00 Sports Desk
1.30.30 Ken Bruce 4.00 Night Show

Radio 1

News on the half hour from **6.30am until**
9.30pm and at 12 midnight.
6.00am Adrian John 1.00 7.00 Hills Road
7.00 8.00 Sports Desk 8.00 Gary Davies
8.12.30pm Newsbeat 2.30 Gary Davies
3.00pm 4.30 Select-A-Disc 5.30
6.00pm 7.00 Sports Desk 7.00 Andy
Peoples 10.00-12.00 The Friday Rock
Show (sessions from Blind Fury and
Louise Loomer) 12.00 Sports Desk
12.00 With Radio 2 2.00pm With
Radio 1 12.00-4.00pm With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE
6.00 Newsdesk. 6.30 Brain of Britain 1985
7.00 World News. 7.00 Twenty-Four Hours

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| 7.30 Gales: Worship 7.40 Merchant | 7.40 | 7.40 |
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also on page 28

Italian questions as bodies arrive

From Peter Nichols Rome

The first of the bodies of the 30 Italian victims who have been identified are due here this morning in a Belgian military aircraft.

With them there will be some injured Italians and a group of Juventus supporters who in the tragic confusion at the stadium lost their identity documents and air tickets. The remaining bodies will follow when post-mortem examination procedures are over.

Last night in the Senate in the course of a debate arising out of parliamentary questions on the Brussels disaster the Government announced that the Italian would raise the question of violence in football stadiums at the meeting under their chairmanship fixed for June 20 and 21 of EEC ministers.

Last night Juventus subscribed 300 million lire (£125,000) for the families of the victims. Signor Giovanni Agnelli, chairman of Fiat and honorary president of the club, issued a stern statement saying that "the first thing to do to prevent such dreadful incidents to happen again is unfortunately to ban English fans from European soccer stadiums."

He excluded any comparison with British behaviour which he regards as uniquely bad. Reviewing football tragedies after Brussels he said: "The fundamental cause is this race of hooligans which comes from one country, Britain - to whom we nevertheless owe so much in terms of civilization and sporting success."

Thatcher wants FA to withdraw clubs

Continued from page 1

John Smith, the Liverpool chairman who has recently been appointed to lead the Sports Council, and from journalists at the Liverpool/Juventus match, including David Miller of *The Times*.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport, had a long conversation with Mr Smith by



Team work: the Duke of Edinburgh drives his carriage through water and (below) with Mr Robinson, the Queen's guide of the sands

English clubs facing ban

Continued from page 1

Mr John Smith, chairman of Liverpool Football Club and recently appointed chairman of the Sports Council, though not accepting it as inevitable that the club will be suspended, admitted yesterday: "Until we control the crowd problem, with a combination of identity cards and a passport (confiscation), the humiliation cannot be contained. The Home Office is working on it. We are the only country that exports football violence. It is too early to tell whether Liverpool will be suspended. The venue was badly chosen."

Mr Bangert believes the cure lies with the British Government. He told me yesterday: "I made proposals to Mr Macfarlane some time ago

that known hooligans should not be permitted to leave Britain, but he said 'We are a democratic country, and cannot do this'. As long as this procedure is being applied by your government and such people are allowed to leave the country, there is a clear chance of extensive suspensions. My personal opinion, with experience of the problem for so long and so often, and having issued warnings, is that the only consequence now can be to suspend the clubs. But UEFA must decide how far they will go."

This is the last moment at which to save the game of football, I haven't consulted all the others, but I think there is unanimity. We have been patient for a very long time.

Duke beats challenge of sands

The Duke of Edinburgh drove a carriage and four across some of Britain's most dangerous stretches of sand yesterday and smiled breezily before saying: "It was smooth going - I had no difficulties."

The intrepid Duke had been forewarned of the dangers of the crossing in Morecambe Bay from the village of Silverdale to Grange-over-Sands, a near four-mile stretch which has claimed at least 150 lives in the past.

Any concerns he may have had were dispelled by the bay's officially appointed Queen's guide Mr Frederick Robinson, 52, who sat on the Prince's left hand side throughout the ride.

Mr Robinson has been crossing the bay where the River Mersey flows into the sea for the last 21 years.

A total of 11 carriages made the crossing which was to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Holker Horse driving trials at nearby Holker Hall.

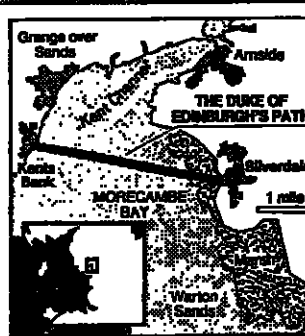
Mr Robinson, who receives £15 a year for being the bay's official guide said later that the Duke was relaxed throughout the ride.



The Duke's carriage on the crossing - the first to be made for 150 years and which was watched yesterday by nearly 2000 holiday makers - was led by four chestnut bay horses.

Among those who have died on the treacherous sands was the entire party of a stagecoach which disappeared without trace in 1821.

Photographs: Warren Harrison and John Voos.



Monologues drown political message

Birthplace of Socrates or not, when it comes to elections, there is hardly any dialogue in Greece. As one American colleague put it: "Each Greek politician performs his little ritual dance, blissfully ignoring his rival dancing near him." Why ritual? Greek bouzouki dancing is, after all, the best illustration of the uncommunicative individualism of Greek politics.

So, this week, the glorification of political monologue, the campaign mega-rally, has moved into Athens where the big party leaders address colossal meetings at which no one listens to the speaker. The crowd waves plastic party flags and acts as an unthinking chorus with the slogans transmitted by walkie-talkie to show that the man on the balcony is getting some response. A heckler would be in danger of his life.

There is monologue everywhere, especially in time-sharing on state television. No two political leaders have yet confronted each other on the screen to air positions or arguments. It is like two boxers sitting each at their corner of the ring, hurling invective. Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, leader of the conservative opposition, New Democracy party, challenges daily his chief adversary, Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Socialist Prime minister, to a televised duel. But the latter opts out with some remark of unconvincing disdain.

One of these will be prime minister of Greece next Monday morning. Yet instead of disputing face-to-face, they resort to one-sided criticism and, in the case of Mr Papandreu, to a good deal of character assassination by innuendo.

It has been a passionate campaign, but one that was remarkably clean of the visual and acoustic pollution that has highlighted past elections. An interparty committee sitting in the Interior Ministry has been laying down rules that ban bill-posting in other than pre-assigned locations, or the use of party loudspeakers, or the stringing of party banners across avenues that used to give Athens the appearance of a Neapolitan back alley with all the bawdy out to dry.

The most impressive change this time has been the zest with which the conservatives, young and old, even the little old ladies of the Kolonaki set, donned their tennis shoes to do some systematic door-to-door campaigning for "New Democracy".

They are showing a dedication that had been seen as the virtue of the left, the one that helped the Socialists double their electoral strength in each of the three preceding elections.

For all the restrictions imposed by the interparty committee, new ways and methods are devised to put across the party's word. The latest is the nightly motorcade, each car bedecked with party flags affixed, cruising up and down the main avenues, their horns blowing.

At suburban traffic lights, groups of officials in party colours - green for Socialist, blue for new democracy - hand out leaflets and flags to motorists. They are particularly good natured and there are rarely incidents, even when rival groups get close enough to taunt each other.

One conspicuous absence in this colourful confrontation is the Reds. The two Communist parties - the pro-Soviet KKE and the Eurocommunists - deplore these antics as part of the bipartisan game of Socialists and conservatives designed to succeed each other in power in perpetuity.

Mr Leonidas Kyprios, president of the small Eurocommunist Party and one of the most popular Greek politicians, told a sizeable party rally in Constitution Square on Tuesday night, that all the major issues were being buried under an avalanche of mud-slinging and plastic-flag waving.

"We see more flags than faces at our meetings," he cried. "So sometimes I wonder about the vital problems of our people." On Sunday night, no doubt, we shall know.

Mario Modiano

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen visits the Royal Bath and West Show, 11.30.
Princess of Wales, Patron, The National Rubella Council, visits the Polesden Centre of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Watery Lane, Twerton, Bath, 11.30.
Princess Anne opens the Sheffield College for Voluntary Services, Volcave House, West Bar Green, Sheffield, 11.35 and later, President of the Save the Children Fund, she attends a Garden Party, Dinington Hall, South Yorks, 2.
The Duke of Gloucester visits Royal Air Force St Athan, at Barry, South Glamorgan, 10.30.
The Duchess of Gloucester attends the 21st anniversary gala dinner in aid of the Sturs

Organisation for Spastics, Intercontinental Hotel, W1, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Sculpture: aspects of the human head by Bobbie Williams; Alpha Gallery, Burton Cottage Farm, East Baker, Yorks; Wed to Sat 10 to 4 (ends June 8).
Recent paintings and drawings by Sarah Feinmann (ends July 8); Silent Faces by Kevin Cummins; and A State of Health by Howard Walker (ends July 6); Oldham Art Gallery, Union St, Oldham; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Tues 10 to 1, Sat 10 to 4.
Paintings, sculptures, etchings and line cuts by contemporary northern artists; Lancaster Fine Arts, 80 Church St, Lancaster; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends July 6).
Masterpieces by Ben Nicholson; sculpture drawings and paintings by William Crozier; MacLaurin Art

Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 2).

Music

Recital by Virginia Rushton (soprano) and David Rowland (pianist); Christ's College, Cambridge, 1.
Organ recital by Michael Bell, 12.45; and King's School Concert, 7.30; Rochester Cathedral.
Guitar recital by Caroline McCausland; Nicol Court, Brewery Court, Chester, 7.30.
Bath Festival: Recital by the Auriol Spring Quartet, Guildhall Banqueting Room, 1; Recital by the Alberti Spring Quartet, Assembly Rooms, 7.30; and Piano recital by Joshua Rifkin, Theatre Royal, 8.
Concert by the Lindsay String Quartet; Martin Rogers Theatre, Malvern College, 7.30.
Talks, lectures
Meet the journalist: Andrew Wilson on his life and work as a country journalist; Lake District National Park Visitor Centre, Breckhow, Windermere, 1.
Rajasthan murals and British rule, by Ilay Cooper; Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, 7.30.

Food prices

Jersey Royal potatoes, which a month ago were selling for £1.50 a lb, now range from 22-30p a pound. Other new potatoes available this week are Spanish, Majorcan and Canary Islands at 17-24p a lb. Early French carrots 32-35p a lb are now in the shops. Asparagus is plentiful and good value at 90p-£1.60 a lb depending on thickness. Good quality cauliflower at 40-50p each may cost more next week. Mushrooms are good value, particularly flat, ranging from 40-70p a half pound. Hopsi cabbage is cheaper this week at 30-38p a lb. Salad ingredients are still excellent value: round lettuce 18-25p, Webbs 24-40p and Cos 30-40p a head; English, Channel Islands and Dutch hot-house tomatoes at 40-60p a lb are very good quality; cucumber 18-25p; aubergines 18-25p; and spring onions 16-25p a bunch. There is a wide variety of apples from South Africa, France, Italy, Canada and New Zealand as well as home grown from store at between 22p and 55p a lb. Cape black Bartlett apples 65-75p a lb and Spanish Gala melons 60p-£1.30 are good value. Ten pound trays of sun-dried apricots for preserves are available for £2.50-£2.75 a tray. Imported strawberries at 80p-£1.00 a lb and protected English 75-85p a lb and protected English 75-85p a lb and protected English 75-85p a lb.

Roads

The Midlands: M1: Contraflow for two miles N of junction 16 Northampton, MK5. Various lane restrictions between junction 4 and 8 (Birmingham to M50 exit), some overnight weekday closures.
Wales and West A38: Various lane closures. A48: Roadworks at Bodmin bypass, Bolventer, and Camborne bypass, Cornwall. A31: Subway construction at Tricketts Cross, between Farndon and Kingswood, Dorset. A48: Roadworks at North, W Glamorgan; a single line traffic (24 hrs).
The North: A1: Roadworks at Beal, SE of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland. A54: Major resurfacing work at Haslington, E of Crewe; temporary traffic lights in use; delays. M6: Lanes closed on both carriageways between junctions 22 (M65) and 33 (A6 Lancaster St); access to Forton services maintained; care required.
Scotland: A814: Clyde-side Expressway, Lane of eastbound carriageway closed overnight from 6.30 pm to 6 am. A87: Rock blasting at Balmuccia, E of Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross and Cromarty. A8: Junction improvements at junction 2 of the M8 near Edinburgh Airport; westbound width restriction.

Top films

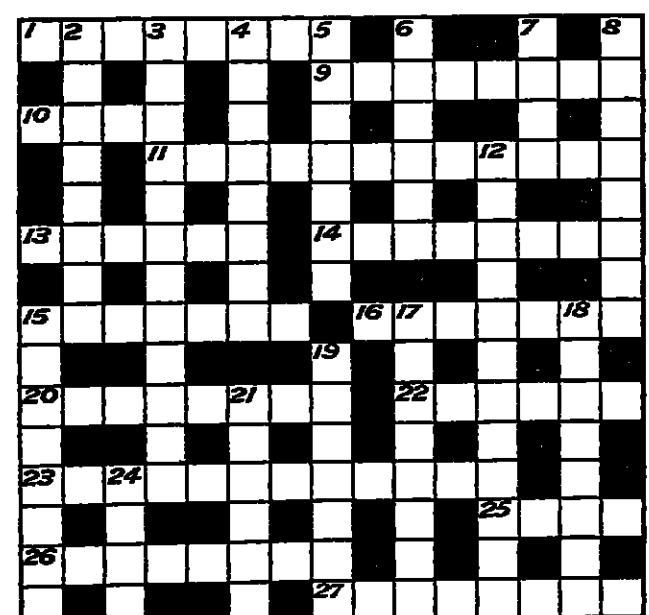
The top box-office films in London:
1 (1) Witness
2 (1) The Cotton Club
3 (1) Starman
4 (1) Falling in Love
5 (1) A Passage to India
6 (1) Wild Geese II
7 (1) Carruagh Hill Cop
8 (1) Armageddon
9 (1) The Chain
10 (1) The Firm
The top films in the provinces:
1 The Cotton Club
2 Falling in Love
3 The Firm
4 A Private Function
Supplied by Screen International

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure will cover the British Isles.
6 am to midnight
London, Midlands, central N England: Sunny periods, dry, wind E, light or moderate; max temp 20C (68F).
SE, E England, East Angles, Surrey periods, dry, but misty near some coasts at first; wind E, moderate; max temp 21C (70F), cooler near coasts.
Central & NW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny periods, dry, wind E or moderate; max temp 20C (68F), cooler near coasts.
N Wales, NW, NE England, Lake District: Sunny periods, dry, wind E, light or moderate (68F).
Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Sunny periods, dry, wind S light or moderate; max temp 17C (63F).
NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny periods, dry, becoming cloudy later; wind S, light or moderate; max temp 14C (57F).
Continental forecast for tomorrow and Sunday: Dry with sunny periods, perhaps showers in the S later; warm generally, cooler near coasts.
See passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E) Wind NE light or strong; fair; visibility mainly good; sea moderate. S Georgia's Channel Wind E moderate, locally fresh at first; visibility mainly good; sea slight, high seas; wind variable light; visibility good; sea smooth.



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,751



- ACROSS
1 They sound like warnings of dangers on the main pages (8).
9 A club riot, perhaps, resulting in a shambles (8).
10 Worthless person rises to the top (4).
11 Asinine fellow with a receptacle for trivia (6-6).
13 The geriatrics have her as patroness (6).
14 Continental, though often associated with EC (8).
15 He may move stealthily or rustle (7).
16 Extending across a single step (7).
20 Hasten on the spree with a flower (8).
22 Soldier takes meat dish - same again (6).
23 Myster on-cost ruins Barrow man (13).
25 Keep mum here, to shut the daughters up (4).
26 Dismissed Indian class - and the result? (8).
27 Carrier providing the Rock with garrison of gunners (4-4).
- DOWN
2 Slow runner changes into race togs for the course (8).
3 Garment affording sound support for slipped disc (6-6).
4 Leo and Della exchange a glance (8).

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 13

Anniversaries

Births: William Worrall Mayo, physician, Manchester, 1819; Walt Whitman, West Hills, Long Island, New York, 1819; Walter Sickert, painter, Munich, 1860; Sir Francis Younghusband, explorer, Murree, Punjab, 1863.
Deaths: Titian, Venice, 1594; Franz Joseph Haydn, Vienna, 1809; Battle of Jutland, 1916.

Hay fever delayed

The Asthma Research Council, which provides a daily grass pollen count for the London area, is delaying the issue of its first pollen count until June 10 this year.
Mr Hugh Faulkner, the council's director, said: "Due to the cold spring and the continuing low temperatures, grass pollen will not be in the air in sufficient quantity to cause distress to hay fever sufferers until around the 10th of June. The council will, however, commence its public information service before then if the experts who carry out the work so advise."

Brussels appeal

The British committee of the Italian experts' organization, Pizzomonte nel Mondo, representing the region around Turin, has opened an appeal on behalf of the families of the victims of the Brussels football stadium disaster. Contributions may be made to the Pizzomonte nel Mondo Brussels Disaster, A/c 91067141 at the Midland Bank, 106 Buryat Oak Broadway, Edgware, Middx, branch sorting code 40-20-15.

The pound

| | Bank | Bank | Bank |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Australia \$ | 1.50 | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| Belgium F | 20.36 | 20.36 | 20.36 |
| Canada C | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 |
| France F | 6.55 | 6.55 | 6.55 |
| Germany DM | 1.77 | 1.77 | 1.77 |
| Italy L | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 |
| Japan Y | 163.60 | 163.60 | 163.60 |
| Netherlands G | 2.36 | 2.36 | 2.36 |
| Portugal Esc | 200.48 | 200.48 | 200.48 |
| Spain Ptas | 166.64 | 166.64 | 166.64 |
| Sweden Kr | 4.66 | 4.66 | 4.66 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Yugoslavia D | 136.73 | 136.73 | 136.73 |

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.
Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.
If your total matches the published weekly closed figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday's highest and lowest temperatures at major stations: London 15.5 to 18.5, Manchester 12.5 to 15.5, Birmingham 14.5 to 17.5, Glasgow 10.5 to 13.5, Edinburgh 11.5 to 14.5, Cardiff 13.5 to 16.5, Belfast 12.5 to 15.5, Dublin 11.5 to 14.5, Cork 10.5 to 13.5, Galway 11.5 to 14.5, Limerick 12.5 to 15.5, Waterford 11.5 to 14.5, Kerry 10.5 to 13.5, Clare 11.5 to 14.5, Tipperary 12.5 to 15.5, Wick 11.5 to 14.5, Sligo 10.5 to 13.5, Donegal 11.5 to 14.5, Fermanagh 12.5 to 15.5, Tyrone 11.5 to 14.5, Londonderry 12.5 to 15.5, Antrim 11.5 to 14.5, Down 12.5 to 15.5, Ulster 11.5 to 14.5, Scotland 10.5 to 13.5, Wales 11.5 to 14.5, England 12.5 to 15.5, Ireland 11.5 to 14.5, Europe 10.5 to 13.5, World 11.5 to 14.5.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 8 pm, 18C (64F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 10C (50F). Humidity: 6 pm, 50 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.0in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 15.4hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1025.0 millibars, falling.

Abroad

Midday: a, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fog; l, light rain; s, sun; sh, snow; w, wind.

Our address

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